

all a capella
soloist baritone: Luke

my dear Theophilus the life and times of

soloist bass: theophilus

I have ready your biography of

choir

Je- sus the birth the women the travels the death & resurrection

Je- sus the family tree the miracles the par- a- bles

Je- sus Je- sus Je- sus Je- sus

He found me on the way He sought me

so what proof do you have? what is the ev- i- dence?

Je- sus Je- sus Je- sus Je- sus smile

day and night He has al- ready come He did it

will He re- store Israel? why was He cru- ci- fied?

just for me how could He be a man? mer-cy and

how do you know He's God? does God for-give sinners?

grace for all He said that He soon would will He come back at all?

Je-sus God's only Son Je-sus grace abounding

Je-sus son of Adam Je-sus mercy flowing

softly: mix of Je-sus and Gods

Je-sus Heaven revealed Je-sus hope for the lost

Je-sus our Redeemer Je-sus God's love revealed

Je- sus taking our sin Je- sus bearing our wounds

Je- sus brings salvation Je- sus suffered our pain

Je- sus gave everything Je- sus searching for us

Je- sus blood pays the price Je- sus saving sinners

Je- sus history's savior Je- sus carrying me

Je- sus going back home Je- sus our forgiveness

Je- sus God becomes man Je- sus raising the dead

Je- sus healing the sick Je- sus comes to our fears

Je- sus answers our doubts Je- sus always faithful

Je- sus forever here Je- sus comforting peace

Je- sus this stumbling block Je- sus wandering saviour

Je- sus wisdom's mystery Je- sus the ageless Truth

the leaders want to kill us we don't want you to

it isn't safe for us there how can we live without

do not leave Jer- us- a- lem but wait for the gift my Fath- er promised

leave us the Ho- ly Spi- rit

You? the Ho- ly Spi- rit

you will be bapt- ized with the Ho- ly Spi- rit

start loudly, each time slightly softer
 till it fades out completely

The musical score is written for three systems, each with three staves (treble, alto, and bass clefs). The lyrics are written below the staves. The first system includes the instruction 'start loudly, each time slightly softer till it fades out completely'. The second system includes the instruction 'have 2 minutes of total silence'. The third system continues the lyrics.

in- to all the world preach the Good News to all cre- a- tion
 into all the world preach the Good News to all creation
 go!
 have 2 minutes of total silence
 men of Ga- li- lee why do you stand here looking into the sky?
 this same Je- sus who's been taken from you into Hea- ven
 will come back the same way you've seen Him go into Hea- ven

School of Grace

Reading: Acts 1:1-11; Mark 16:1-20

How differently do you think things would be if Jesus was still physically among us?

For historians we would always be asking him about events gone by.
For theologians we would be asking him for endorsements of our beliefs.
And I could write on...

But the question remains how differently would things be?

When one looks at the life of Jesus a number of things seem constant:

Everyone was asking him to prove that he was God
He was misunderstood, misinterpreted and misrepresented
He was asked to deal with Israel's history, hopefully announcing it's restoration as world superpower

Things haven't changed.

We can argue that things are more difficult now that there is no way we can prove or disprove concepts of God without God physically there to tell us. But one can also argue that it is easier now. We are not dealing with the difficulties of reality. We can be 'objective'. We don't have to deal with His past. His claims. His influential.

But that is precisely why the Christian faith is unique and its theology and practice difficult. It is about a person not an idea. It is not about a distant God that is unlike us but about One who became One of us. We can't pigeon-hole Him because He left no writings of His own. And we don't even need to believe in the writings because it is belief in the person that matters. His writings may not have helped much given that He talked in parables where meaning wasn't always obvious.

Jesus may have remove the barriers between God and humanity but it left us empty-handed. There was nothing we could do. No worship sufficient. No works to point to. No way to justify our actions.

We are left staring at the clouds.

Grace and mercy that remains imperceptible much of the time.

Love that has to be felt, experienced and given.

Our actions are not what bridge the gap between us and God. They are the bridge between us as humans. They are God's revelations made flesh. They are God revealed in more than words.