

The Libretto of
The Jerusalem Passion:
an oratorio composed in 1987
by Murray Wylie,
an Australian composer

1. The Overture

Declaration Anthem - Soprano (or Baritone) and choir

Listen to the trumpet. Hearken to the trumpet! He that hath an ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit's saying to the churches. Listen to the trumpet, listen to the trumpet sound. Hearken to the trumpet, hearken to the trumpet sound!

To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life. To him that overcometh the same shall be clothed in raiment of white.

To him that overcometh and keepeth My works unto the end, to him will I give the power to rule with an iron rod over the nations.

To him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of God. And he will go out no more for I will write upon him the Name, the new name, Which no man knows, but he who has received it, the Name of the Lord, and the name of the city of God, the New Jerusalem.

He that hath an ear, let him hear. Hearken to the trumpet, hearken to the trumpet sound. Jerusalem, Jerusalem, He that, she that, overcomes.

[Revelation 1:10, 2:7, 2:11, 26-27, 3:4, 12]

Part 1

THE EARTHLY JERUSALEM

2. Sweet Galilee

3. Galilee

String Quartet & Narration

In Galilee, in Galilee, Where water laps an ancient shore, And falls from many a boatman's oar, in Galilee.

In Galilee, in Galilee, They came to know Him by the sea. By the sea He called those fishermen To leave their nets and follow.

Gladly people heard Him, And gladly people came. The poor and heavy-laden gathered - The blind, the sick, the lame.

It's a land, a time, that I remember... My children gathered without number For loaves and fishes, and friendship warm. O Galilee, sweet Galilee.

Air - Soprano & Choir

Sweet Galilee, I love Thee. By the waters of blue Galilee, There I gathered My people to Me, Your Messiah, your Saviour to be.

By the sea sinners gathered to Me. By the sea some believed and were free. There I told you I'd suffer and die And would rise again.

By the shore, there I taught blind and poor. By the shore, I'm the way, I'm the door. I must soon be rejected of men, But will rise again.

4. One Shepherd, One Flock.

5. The Shepherd's Song

Harp Solo & Narration

I am the good shepherd, I enter by the door. My flock is led by thieves and robbers, and wolves have torn the young ones sore. But I have come to save the sheep, and lay My life down for them. I know My own - They'll hear My voice; my voice will surely draw them. And then I'll gather them together - They will surely come. They'll hear My voice, I know they will. Of flocks and folds, there'll be just one.

Ballad - Trio - Baritone and harmonies

I am the good shepherd, but look at My sheep. They are scattered and forlorn. I am the door of the sheepfold, but where are My sheep? They are scattered and forlorn. Scattered and forlorn.

I will lay My life down for them, and they will surely come. They will hear My voice and gather, they will surely come. Yes, they will hear My voice and gather, they will surely come.

Surely, surely come, they will surely come.

I will provide some pastures for them, some pastures green. I'll lead them out so they can find some, some pastures green. I know My own and My own know Me, I will bring them too. I have some others in other sheepfolds, I will bring them too. And I will bring them all together, they shall be one.

Yes, I will bring them all together, they shall be one. They shall, shall be one, and they shall be one.

[John 10:1-17]

6. They shall be One

Pastorale - Flute Solo

Processional Anthem - Tenor & choir

From the mountains and the valleys, from the hills and from the plains, every tribe and every kindred and tongue shall come, and they shall be one. From the rising of the sun to the setting of the same, out of great tribulation they shall come and shall be one in My name.

Every flock and every family of God shall be united, they will hear My voice and know My voice, and they shall come and they shall be one. From the highlands they shall march, from the deserts they shall ride, from the canyons they shall fly as the eagles, and they shall be one.

And they shall be one, and they shall be one. And they shall be one, and they shall be one.

Chorale

This is my commandment: 'I have power to lay it down'. Wherever there is liberty, I can lay it down. We can be together, wherever we lay it down. We can be one, we can be one. Wherever this song is sung, we can be together. Wherever this word is heard, 'I can lay it down'. We can be one, we can be one, we can be one....

[Rev 7:9, 14; John 10:16,18]

7. Galilee Farewell

8. Jerusalem Entry

Narration

Galilee, sweet Galilee, before Me lies My destiny. My Father calls, I've set My face, to walk the course, to run the race- but even still, it's sad to leave this place.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, fortress of intolerance, of ruthless pride and arrogance. Thou sepulchre of holy ones that silenced gospel words and quenched prophetic fire. Defiant mountain, how you stand - A lion poised and ready, crouched and watchful, waiting for the kill. But there beyond, I see a joy - A hope, a goal, a mystery, a city bright is coming into view. Beyond the cross I see - Jerusalem the New.

Chorus - Bass & Choir

The King! the King! The King is coming, let's lift up our voice with loud hosannahs, the King of our choice. The King of the Jews, who'll set us all free. Weep and weep and weep and cry for Jerusalem.

Thou that stonest the prophets and killed those that were sent, when they came from the desert with the call to repent. How you hardened your heart and would never relent, now you're full of the blood of the innocent.

O Jerusalem, O Jerusalem, how often I wanted to gather you up As a hen with her young ones but you would not. How I wanted to gather you under My wings but you could not, you would not repent of your sins. Weep and weep and weep and cry for Jerusalem. The New Jerusalem, the New Jerusalem.

This temple was in building here for forty-six years. It's the pride of our people, of our hopes and our tears, and this temple will be standing when Messiah appears, so we've blinded our eyes and covered our ears.

O Jerusalem, O Jerusalem. Go and mourn for your temple, go and mourn for your walls. Go and growl like the dragons, go and wail as the owls, for your sin and your judgment are consummate and your house it is left to you desolate!

[Matt 21:9, 23:37, 27:24, John 2:20, Isaiah 59:10,11, Micah 1:8, Matt 23:38]

9. My Temple: My Body

10. Last Supper

Narration

Then what shall become of all this here - This building proud and standing here - This people, nation, gathered here - This kingdom badly scattered here? There shall not be one stone here, that's left upon another here. And now I leave this temple here, Never to return. And men will look to find me here, or maybe in the desert near, or perhaps inside the temple here. But you will know where I will be, for where My body is, there the eagles will gather.

Now I will show you what I mean, at this our last and farewell meal; for here is bread and here is wine - Gather now, Eat and drink, and so be mine. For it shall always be that where the eagles eat and drink and gather there as one - There is my body, There is my blood, there am I.

Aria - Baritone and Tenor (or Contralto) Duet

Gather now, together now, sup with Me this final hour. Here is My body, the cup of blessing; take it now, drink it now, all together. This is My body, My broken body, this is My body broken for you.

[Luke 22:14-20, 1 Cor 11:24]

11. In Your Name

Responsive Chorale - Baritone & Choir

In Your name, in Your name, Father keep them in Your Name. I have glorified Your name, and will glorify Your name. Father, glorify Your name.

In Your name, In Your name, Father keep them in Your Name. So that they may all be one, just as You and I are one, I in them and Thou in me.

[John 17:1-23]

12. The Cup

13. Gethsemane

Narration

In anguish to the garden now - to pray, to ask the Father now - to take the cup.

In anguish to the Father now - All things are possible to You - if it be possible for You - Nevertheless, I'll take the cup. Sleep on, I go to be the offering now. To trial and cruel death. Alone I go.

[Mark 14: 34-36, 41]

Chorus - Tenor & Choir

Father... if it be possible... nevertheless... nevertheless. Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me. Nevertheless... nevertheless. O Father, if it be possible, if it be possible, Let this cup pass from Me. Nevertheless, not My will but Thine be done. Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me.

Behold, the betrayer comes!

This cup that the Father has given Me, shall I not take it and drink it now.

[Mark 14:34-36, John 18:11]

14. The Trial

Recitative - Bass & Choir

I've tried Him, but I find Him innocent. This first time I bring Him out for I find no crime in Him.

But we have a law, and by that law He should die.

But why must He die, what evil has He done? This second time I would release Him.

But we have a law, and by that law He should die.

This third time I would release Him, I find no crime that is worthy of death. Behold the man.

O crucify Him, the king of the Jews.

Then judge Him by your law

We'll judge Him by our law

Now I exceedingly fear for the law that would crucify Him. He's the king of the Jews, and what I have written, I have written. Now I was my hands of the blood of this man.

His blood be on us and our children. Weep and weep and weep and cry for Jerusalem.

[Luke 23:14, 16, 20, 22, John 19:5-7, John 19:21, Matt 27:24-25]

15. O Lamb, most pure

Elegy - Tenor

As the swifts fly over the walls, and the walls are alive with the echo of violent cries, and the cries are alive with the torment and pain of mankind; there the Lord is crucified.

Adoration hymn - Choir

O Lamb, most pure, Your face of light brings all my darkness to Your sight, for You alone are wholly right. Your blood, Your blood, O Lamb of God, can make me holy white.

Consummation - Harp Solo

16. Forsaken and Finished

Chorus - Bass & Choir

O Jesus, Saviour, come down from that cross. O call for the angels, will they hear your voice? O king of the Jews, who'll set us all free.

Why hast Thou forsaken Me?

The bulls and the lions they encompass me 'round with their roaring and raging and ravening sound. In the torrents of perdition I will surely be drowned for the cords and the pains of death are drawing Me down.

Why hast Thou forsaken Me?

They have parted my garments and My raiment by lots, I am poured out like water and my heart is like wax. I am mocked and despised, I am scorned as well by the screaming of demons and the torment of hell.

Why hast Thou forsaken Me?

The New Jerusalem, the New Jerusalem.

And now it is finished, it is finished and done, go and thunder from the temple that the battle is won, come and fly from the heavens on the wings of the wind, come and save Me O God, save us all from our sin.

Now it is finished, it's finished and done.

[Matt 27:40, 26:53, 27:46, Ps 22.12, 18:4-5, 22:18, 14, 6 18:5-6, 13, 10 22:21, Jn 19:30]

17. Consolation Prelude

Piano Solo

18. The Consolation

Arioso - Female Trio

He drew me out of many waters, receiving Me into his bosom, therefore I say, therefore I say:

Contralto Solo

Into Your hands I commit My spirit, into Your arms I commit My soul, for You are my rock, Jehovah, provider, You are my rock, El Shaddai, My hiding place.

Arioso

Mercy and truth have met together, peace and righteousness have kissed each other, therefore I say, therefore I say:

Chorale - Contralto & Choir

Into Your hands I commit My spirit, Into Your arms I commit My soul, For You are my rock, Jehovah, provider, You are My rock, El Shaddai, My hiding place.

Amen.

[Psalm 18:16, 85:10; Luke 23:46]

19. The Testimony of John

20. Out of His Side

I John have something more to say, for there is something more to say. One of the soldiers here today has pierced His side and opened a way.

But what can one man say to you to know that what I say is true? I know it's true and I believe! And because it's true, you may believe.

For when my Lord had already died, a spear was thrust into His side, and at once there came out blood and water. Why?

Exultation Chorus - Soprano & Choir

Out of His side, the triumph of His passion, out of His side, His bride He'll surely fashion, for blood and water flowed out as a witness, and so she will be spotless. Out of His side His perfect bride will come.

Out of His side, the blood of our forgiveness, and how much more the blood of Christ will cleanse us, and so she may go on unto perfection, and then she will be spotless. Out of His side His perfect bride will come.

As Eve from Adam came, His bride that bears His name comes forth from sword-rent side, and there, will ever be.

For He was broken, broken to open the new and living way, that we may enter in.

The New Jerusalem, His royal diadem, will crowned in beauty stand, the queen at His right hand.

[Jn 19:34-36, Eph 5:27, Heb 9:14, 6:1, 10:20, Is 62:3, Ps 45:9]

Part 2

THE NEW JERUSALEM

21. Resurrection Prelude

22. The Temple Shall be Raised

Pipe Organ Solo

Resurrection Anthem - Choir

In three days, in three days, the temple shall be raised. It shall be raised, it shall be raised, the temple of His body shall be raised.

He's risen, He's risen, His body has been raised. He has been raised, He has been raised, the temple of His body has been raised.

He's raised us, He's raised us, His body has been raised. We have been raised, we have been raised, His many membered body has been raised. We have been raised, we have been raised, The temple of His body has been raised.

It shall be raised, it shall be raised, His body, His temple shall be raised.

[Jn 2:19, Eph 2:6]

23. Searching for the body

Ballad - Trio - Contralto and harmonies

Searching for the body, searching for the body, Searching for the body of Christ.

When His disciples gathered, the angel said, 'Why come to find one who's alive among the dead?' No man has found His body, nor yet His bones, His body is a living house of living stones.

Searching for the body, searching for the body, Searching for the body of Christ.

Through time and through the ages, through history, We've tried to find the body of reality. Through all of man's religion from east to west, Through all the mystic ritual observances.

Searching for the body, searching for the body, Searching for the body of Christ.

We've tried to find His body in empty rooms, In many empty forms, in many empty tombs. Through all the congregations, from church to church, Through all the good and bad and right and wrong we've searched. Where will we find Your body, to worship You? Not on the mountain, but in Spirit and in Truth.

Searching for the body, searching for the body, Searching for the body of Christ.

[John 4:21-24]

24. My Body: My People

25. Where are the eagles?

Narration

I said before, that men would look to find Me here, and some would search the desert near, or wait inside the temple here. I said before that you would know, and do you know where the body is? I said before, where my body is, there the eagles will gather together. For My body is where the eagles are, eating and drinking, gathered as one; and there am I, in the midst of them. Here is my body, where are the eagles?

Chorale - Tenor and harmonies

Where are the eagles? Where are the eagles? Why don't they hear, why don't they see? And why don't they fly home? Make your flight in the summer, make your flight before the winter, before iniquity makes love of many cold. Make it right with your brother before the night hour is over, before the lightning flash when the Son will then appear. Some will say 'here', some will say 'there', only a few will say 'prepare' Now is the end, the time it is near, nations are failing now for fear.

There's an Eagle, there's a Man, there's a Lion, there's a Lamb, there's a body gathered here, but where, Lord....Where are the eagles, where are the eagles? Why don't they hear, why don't they see? And why don't they fly home? No, He is not in the desert, No He will not come to the temple, but where the body is found - there will eagles fly! Those who are there, He will gather; those who are not, He will scatter, before the lightning flash when the Son will then appear.

There's an Eagle, there's a Man, there's a Lion, there's a Lamb, there's a body gathered here but where, Lord? ... aaah... Why don't they fly home? Why don't they fly home?

Young men be swift, old men be strong, knowing the time is not too long. All men repent, all men believe, come with the eagles, come receive. Oo oo oo oo.....

[Matt 24:12, 20, 23; 24:26, 27, 28; Lk 21:26; Rev 4:7; Rev 5:5,6]

26. Gather Now

27. Hope of Unity

Narration

Young men be swift, old men be strong, knowing that the time is not too long. All men repent, all men believe, come with the eagles, Come receive. The poet said, 'There's a time for this, and a time for that'... But now it's time to gather. It's time to hope, it's time to love. It's time to believe and cleave together - to be the body, to be the eagles.

The time has come to leave all else. The time has come to lay it down. No price is too great, No enemy too strong. The time is short, the time has come, to gather now, together now. As one.

Aria - Baritone and Tenor (or Contralto) duet

Gather now, together now, to the throne of My great power. Here is My body, the cup of blessing; take it now, drink it now, all together. This is My body, My broken body, This is My body broken for you.

Chorale - Baritone and harmonies

O how I love - the Spirit from above is planting deeply in me the hope of unity. O how I love, O how I love, the hope of unity is planted deeply within me. O how I love - the Spirit from above is planting deeply in me the hope of unity. O how I love, O how I love, the hope of unity is planted deeply within me. The hope of unity is planted deeply within me. Aaaaah.

28. Heaven Coming Down

29. Jerusalem Come Down

Narration - Orchestra & Male Choir

I John, saw Christ when they pierced His side. I John saw blood flow from His side, and also water from His side.

I saw the opening of the way, through the veil before the eyes of all. I saw that nations would enter in, be washed and follow up the shining path.

And now I see them coming down. I John see heaven coming down, a multitude, a city coming down, a bride in righteous wedding gown - the New Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is coming down, adorned as a bride, a perfect bride, redeemed and washed and purified by blood and water from His side.

He died for us all, to present to Himself His perfect bride - the New Jerusalem. Now pray all ye peoples, weep and cry. Call to the heavens, 'Come Down, come down'.

[Jn 19:34-35, Mark 15:37-38, Heb 10:20, Rev 21:2, Eph 5:26-27]

Trumpet Prelude

Prayer - Tenor

Come down, Jerusalem, come down Jerusalem. O hope of ages past, be our home at last. Father, come and dwell among us, come and tabernacle with us, spread your mighty wings upon us, drive away every fear, dry away every tear.

Come down, Jerusalem, come down Jerusalem. My heart so longs for Thee, my heart belongs to Thee. Come Thou fount of living water, come Thou bride of heaven down and feed us with Your bread of heaven. City of history, finish Thy mystery.

[Rev 21:3, 7:15, 7:47, 21:2, 10:7]

Chorus

Jerusalem, come down!

30. Christ Your Passion

Commitment Chorale - Soloists & Choir

Christ, Your passion has become my passion, Unto perfection, through Your provision. Christ, I glory in the cross before me, And my heart is longing for so great salvation. Christ, Your passion has become our passion, And in deep repentance, we renew our vision. Grace be with us, mercy be upon us, And peace attend us from the Son of the Father. Father, O Father we pray. Father we pray.

Christ, Your passion has become our passion, Unto perfection, through Your provision. Come, Lord Jesus, be revealed within us, We are yearning, waiting, for Your appearing.

O earth believe Him, O seas receive Him, In the time and season of His revelation. In joy we leave you and in faith we receive You, For Your Holy Spirit is alive within us. Christ, Your passion has become our passion, Unto perfection, through Your provision. Christ, Your passion has become our passion, And now in silence,we renew our vision.

Come and make us one, Come and make us one, Make us one. Ah.

Amen.

[Gal 6:12, Heb 2:3, 2 Tim 1:2, Rom 8:18]

31. Communion Chorus

Celebration Anthem - Tenor and harmonies

**I'll meet you here at one table of friends, we'll meet at last at one table of friends.
Where there once were many, let there now be one, and let the royal blood begin to
flow. And I exchange the betrayer's kiss, and I exchange my denying lips, for a mouth
filled with praise and a heart filled with love.**

The End
