

SAID ED - JULY 20, 2003

The Dance

About fifty years ago Sidney Carter wrote the modern arrangements for an old shaker hymn called "The Lord of the Dance". In this hymn, God is depicted as the master of the dance of all creation. The One who danced in the moon, in the stars and in the sun was also born in Bethlehem to dance upon the earth. In His goodness he offers to let us share in the dance and He will lead us "wherever we may be."

I have always been touched by the power of this song; its imagery captures so perfectly what life is all about for the true Christian. We are here to learn how to dance to God's tune. Christian life is not so much "doing our own thing", not dancing our own dance in our own self-centered way. For us who follow Christ, the dance is not done alone; it's done in the company of others. It was first learned and danced in perfection with Jesus who was one in God in harmony with all creation.

It is all spelled out in the scriptures. The essence of the melody is repeated for us over and over again when we gather to celebrate the liturgy. The Eucharist is the tune of the One who danced even on Good Friday when the sun turned black as He hung upon the cross. For He is the life that will never, never die, as the song goes. His greatest desire is to live again in us so that the dance may go on.

If we pattern our life journey after the liturgy of the church, we will slowly become transformed into the fullness of Christ. With the Holy Spirit informing our every action, we will be able to offer a perfect sacrifice of praise and worship to God. This worship is possible when we are dancing to the rhythm to the very Spirit of God dancing within our hearts. That same Spirit hopes that each of us will follow.

Listen to the rhythm of your heart and know that at its deepest core and longing, it is the Spirit of God that is singing the song of praise in your life. Don't be afraid. Dance the dance and you are praising God.

Have a good week and enjoy the Summer!

Ed
Palumbos@dor.org
