



### Yuletide 2023

It is Yuletide in the year 2023 on the Christian calendar and I had the pleasure once again of listening to JS Bach's Cantata BWV 248, Weihnachtsoratorium. [1]

Jauchzet, frohlocket, auf, preiset die Tage,  
rühmet, was heute der Höchste getan!  
Lasset das Zagen, verbannet die Klage,  
stimmet voll Jauchzen und Fröhlichkeit an!

A most beautiful Ode to the numinous, to hope and renewal, capturing the essence of the allegory of the mortal, the causal, life, the persecution, the humiliation, the agonising death, of Jesus of Nazareth, and the message of the redemption, renewal, possible if we as Julian of Norwich, George Fox, and William Penn and so many others did and do feel the individual essence of that allegory, perhaps quintessentially expressed in the sixth part of that Oratorio.

Do those, can those, who now wield power, or who are influencers, in the Western world and other places where such power results in or promises armed conflicts - death and suffering for others in other lands - listen and understand, appreciate, the allegory, the numinous music?

Nun seid ihr wohl gerochen  
an eurer Feinde Schar,  
denn Christus hat zerbrochen,  
was euch zuwider war.  
Tod, Teufel, Sünd und Hölle  
sind ganz und gar geschwächt;  
bei Gott hat seine Stelle  
das menschliche Geschlecht.

Apparently such ones in such places do not, or cannot, appreciate such an allegory, such numinous music. Which perhaps indicates something about our human physis and how far we as a species still have to travel toward hope and renewal. If, that is, we as a species now capable of reason, empathy, and compassion, survive.

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2023

[1] <https://archive.org/details/j.-s.-bach-foundation-bach-cantata-bwv-248-weihnachtsoratorium>

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Image credit:  
Icon of Jesus Pantocrator, Δέησις Mosaic  
Hagia Sophia, c. 1260 CE

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