

MENNONITE CENTRAL
COMMITTEE PRESENTS



Mysteries of Grace & Judgement

A journey of story, poetry and song
with Jack Dueck, reflecting the experiences
of the Mennonite sojourn in Russia.

RECORDED LIVE
OCTOBER 11, 1996

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH · KITCHENER

STORYTELLER:

Jack Dueck

MUSICAL DIRECTOR:

George Wiebe

PRODUCED BY:

Jack & Eleanor Toews Dueck

**COMPOSER/
ACCOMPANIST:**

Esther Wiebe

NARRATORS:

Mary Wiens
& Dave Worth

CHOIR:

Sojourn Singers



Mennonite
Central
Committee

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Mysteries of Grace & Judgement

MYSTERIES OF
GRACE & JUDGEMENT

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Mennonite
Central
Committee

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Scripted by Jack Dueck

Storyteller: Jack Dueck • Musical Director: George Wiebe

Composer/Accompanist: Esther Wiebe

Narrators: Mary Wiens & Dave Worth • Choir: Sojourn Singers

October 11, 1996 • St. Mary's Catholic Church, Kitchener, Ontario

PART ONE

A. THE MANDATE: TELLING THE STORY

1. Worship is Remembering
2. Readings: Joshua 4:5-7; Psalms 78:2-4

B. ROSES IN THE DESERT

C. FOREVER SUMMER, FOREVER SUNDAY

1. Story: Idylls of Community

Choir: *Frisch Gesungen*

Folk Tune

Hab oft im Kreise der Lieben,
im duftigem Grase geruht,
und mir ein Liedlein gesungen,
und mir ein Liedlein gesungen,
und Alles, Alles war huebtsch
und gut!

I've often rested on fragrant grass
in the company of those I love and
sung to myself, and sung to myself,
that all was fair and well.

Sollst uns nicht lange klagen,
was alles dir wehe thur,
nur frisch, nur frisch gesungen,
nur frisch nur frisch gesungen,
und Alles, Alles wird wieder gut!

Don't give in to lamenting
the things that bring us pain.
Sing sprightly!
Sing sprightly!
And all will be well again.

2. Story: God's In His Heaven, All's Right With The World

Choir: *Wenn ich, O Schoepfer, deine Macht* Chr. F. Gellert (1715-17)

Wenn ich, O Schoepfer, deine Macht, Creator, when I ponder in worshi
die Weisheit deiner Wege, your might, the wisdom of your
ways, die liebe die fur alle Wacht, the love that keeps watch over al
anbetend ueberlege, I know not how to voice my
so weiss ich von Bewundrung voll, admiration,
nicht, wie ich dich erheben soll, my God, my Lord, my Father.
Mein Gott, mein Herr, Mein Vater.

3. Story: The Heavens Were Telling

Choir: *Wer Pflanzte die Blumen?*

Wer pflanzte die Blumen ins gruene Who planted the flowers in the
Feld? green field?
Wer weckte die sprossenden Keime? Who woke the sprouting buds?
Wer hat sie so praechtig dahin? Who planted them so splendidly,
gestellt, the rustling shrubs and trees?
die rauschenden Straeucher und Who set the beautiful gardens in
Baeume? place?
Wer legte den schoenen Garten an?

refrain

Das hat der Vater, der Vater im
Himmel getan,
Das hat der Vater, der Vater im
Himmel getan.

refrain

It was the Father, the Father in
heaven;
It was the Father, the Father in
heaven.

Wer schenkte dem froehlichen Who gave the cheerful birds thei
Voegelein das Leben? life?
Wer gab ihnen Schwingen zum Fliegen, Who gave them wings to fly,
so wundervoll zart und fein? so wonderfully tender and fine? A
Und sag' doch, wer lehrte sie singen tell me who taught them to sing so v
so schoen, ach, so schoen, wie ich's ah, so well as I cannot?
nicht kann?

Und blick' ich nach oben bei
finst'rer Nacht
und sehe die Heere der Sterne
sehe sie funkeln in ew'ger Pracht,
da wuenscht ich zu wissen so gerne:
Wer zuendete jene Lichter an?

And as I look heavenward by
darkness of night,
and see the hosts of stars, and
they sparkle in eternal splendour.
Then I yearn to know who lit
these lamps, who lit these lamps?

4. Story: The Faith Wonder Of It All

Choir: *Weisst Du Wieviel Sterne Stehen?* Wilhelm Hey (1789-1854)

Folk Tune, 1818; arr. Esther Wiebe

Weisst du wieviel Sterne stehen
an dem blauen Himmelszelt?
Weisst du wieviel Wolken gehen
weit hinueber alle Welt?
Gott Der Herr hat sie gezehlet
dass ihm auch nicht eines fehlet
an der ganzen grossen Zahl,
an der ganzen grossen Zahl.

Can you count the stars that hang
in the blue canopy of heaven?
Can you count the clouds
that float by high above?
God the Lord has counted them,
so that not one is missing,
of their vast number,
of their vast number.

Weisst du wieviel Muecklein spielen
in der heissen Sonnenglut?
Wieviel Fischlein auch sich kuehlen
in der hellen Wasserflut?
Gott der Herr rief sie mit Namen,
dass sie all'ins Leben kamen.
Dass sie nun so froehlich sind.

Can you count the flies at play
in the sun's hot blaze?
Can you count the fish cooling
themselves
in the brightly flowing stream?
God the Lord called them by name,
so they all sprang to life,
they all found its joy.

Weisst du wieviel Kindlein fruehe
Stehn aus ihrem Bettlein auf?
Dass sie ohne Sorg und Muehe,
froehlich sind im Tageslaug?
Gott im Himmel sorgt fuer alle;
Danke ihm mit frohem Schalle;
Denn er sorget auch fuer dich,
denn er sorget auch fuer dich.

Can you count the little children
who rise early from their bed?
Do you know that they pass the day
without worry or effort?
God in heaven cares for all,
thank him with a burst of song;
For he cares for you,
for he also cares for you.

5. Story: Summer Sunday And Week-day Winter

Choir: *Was Kann Es Schoenres Geben*

Karl Phillip Spitta (1801-1859)
Folk Tune, 1819; arr. Esther Wiebe

Was kann es schoenres geben,
Und was kann sel'ger sein,
Als wenn wir unser Leben,
Leben, Dem Herrn im Glauben
weih'n.

What could be more beautiful,
What could be more blessed
Than when we pledge our lives
to the Lord in faith.

Wir sind in seiner Naehc,
Und leben immer so,
Als ob das Aug' Ihn saehc, saehc,
Und sind von Herzen froh.

We are in his presence,
In him our lives are held,
as if our eye beheld him.
With all our heart we rejoice.

Wenn auch die Lippen schweigen,
So betet doch das Herz,
Und die Gedanken steigen, steigen,
Bestaendig Himmelwaertz.

Even when our lips are silent,
our hearts are still at prayer
and our thoughts ascend,
ascend steadfastly toward heaven.

An seiner Guete laben,
Wir uns in aller Still,
Man kann Ihn immer haben,
haben,
Wenn man Ihn haben will.

We delight in his goodness
in all serenity.
We can always have him,
if we desire him.

D. A TERRIBLE BEAUTY IS BORN

1. Story: John Hiebert: Mennonite, Communist, Capitalist, Christian

Choir: *Wehrlos Und Verlassen*

In The Rifted Rock I'm Resting Mary D. James / W. Warren Bentley
Soloist: Tim Wiebe

Wehrlos und verlassen sehnt sich
oft mein Herz nach stiller Ruh;
Doch du deckest mit dem Fittich
me deiner Liebe sanft mich zu,

In the rifted rock I'm resting,
safely sheltered I abide,
There no foes nor storms molest
while within the cleft I hide.

refrain:

Unter deinem sanften Fittich
find' ich Frieden, Trost und Ruh,
Denn du schirmest mich so
freundlich, schuetzest mich und
deckst mich zu.

Drueckt mich Kummer, Mueh
und Sorgen,
Meine Zuflucht bist nur du;
Rettest mich aus allen Aengsten,
troestest mich und deckst mich zu.

Sicher bin ich und geborgen,
denn bei dir ist suesse Ruh;
Mag es auch im Leben stuermen,
Herr, dein Fittich deckt mich zu.

2. Story: Mennonite Apocalypse

Choir: *Kann im Wilden Sturm Ein Lichtlein Glimmen*

Julius Koebner (1806-1884)

Kann im wilden Sturm ein
Lichtlein glimmen, glimmen fort
und fort von Jahr zu Jahr,
unter Meeres Wogen die
ergrimmen,
sich mit Wut drauf stuerzen
immerdar?

Ja, wenn der den Wind, das Meer
bedraeuert,
dessen Almacht unsre Seele preist,
der mit ewger Gnade uns erfreuet,
der sich wunderbar in uns erweist!

refrain:

Now I'm resting, sweetly resting,
in the cleft once made for me,
Jesus blessed Rock of Ages,
I will hide myself in Thee.

Long pursued by sin and Satan,
weary, sad, I longed for rest;
Then I found this heav'nly shelter
opened in my Saviour's breast.

Peace which passeth understanding
joy the world can never give;
Now in Jesus I am finding,
in his light of love I live.

Yes, if he subdues the wind and sea
whose almighty power our souls
praise,
who makes us rejoice with eternal
grace, who makes himself known to
us in wondrous ways.

Kann ein kleines, schwaches
Haeuflein stehen
wider eine grosse Heeres Macht?
Wie wird's dem verwegnen
Haeuflein gehen?
Fuerchtet es nicht die ungleiche
Schlacht?

3. Story: Stumbling Toward Communion

Choir: *Es Schaut Bei Nacht Und Tage*

Can a small, weak band stand
against a mighty host?
What will become of the daring
band?
Will it not fear the unequal battle?

Jonathan Paul, nach 1900 entstanden

NOTE: 1. Choir sings refrain first.

2. Congregation invited to sing refrain after each verse.

Es schaut bei Nacht und Tage
Dein Holdes Bild mich an,
Und legt mir vor die Frage,
Ob ich dich lassen kann.

By night and day your gracious image
beholds me and places me before the
question: could I ever leave you?

Refrain

Die Freuden dieser Erde
sah ich wie Schaum vergehn,
sie konnten mir nichts werden,
Dein Kreuz nur blieb mir stehn.

I saw the joys of earth
vanish like foam.
They meant nothing to me;
only your cross remained standing.

Oft habe ich gejamert,
wenn Satan's List mich schlug,
jetzt hab' ich den umklammert,
der meine Suenden trug.

I often lamented when guiles
laid hold of me.
Now I embrace the One
who bore my sins.

Nun steht bei Nacht und tage
Dein Bild im Heerzen mir,
dass ich es jedem sageso
wie gut es ist bei Dir.

Now your image dwells
in my heart by day and night,
I tell abroad how good it is
to be with you.

INTERMISSION

A. SHELTER IN A TIME OF STORM**1. Choir: Kyrie Eleison**

Greek litany; Russian Orthodox liturgy arr. Esther Wiebe 1996

Reading: Psalm 137—By the Waters of Babylon

2. Story: The Falcon Cannot Hear The Falconer

Choir and Solo: So Lang Mein Jesus Lebt

Nikolai Aleksejewitsch Titoff (1800-1895)

Soloist: Lynda Neufeld Mieske

Anne Steel, 1760; trans. Ernst H. Gebhardt (1832-1899)

Solang mein Jesus lebt
und seine Kraft mich hebt,
muss Furcht und Sorge von mir
fliehn,
mein Herz in Lieb ergluehn.

As long as Jesus lives,
and his power upholds me,
fear and worry must flee
from me.
My heart glows with love.

Wenn sich die Sonn' verhuellt,
der Loewe um mich bruellet,
so weiss ich doch in finst'rer Nacht,
dass Jesus mich bewacht.

Should the sun veil itself,
should roaring lions surround
me, still I know in the darkest
night, that Jesus watches over
me.

B. FROM RUSSIA WITH TEARS**1. Letter: Boxcars Into Exiled Incarceration**

Choir and Solo: Nur Mit Jesus Will Ich Pilger Wandern

Johann Peter Schueck (1811-1892)

Soloist: Fred Wieler

Nur mit Jesu will ich Pilger
wandern,
nur mit ihm geh froh ich ein
und aus;
Weg und Ziel find ich bei
keinem andern,
es allein bringt Heil in Herz
und Haus.

With none but Jesus would I take
the pilgrim's journey;
only with him do I gladly go in
and out.

In him alone I find my way
and destination.

He alone brings salvation to my
heart and home.

Er ist Schutz, wenn ich mich
niederlege,
er mein Hort, wenn frueh ich
stehe auf,
er mein Rater an dem
Scheidewege und mein Trost
bei rauhem Pilgerlauf.

He is my shelter when I retire for
the night and when I rise early;
he my Counsellor when I reach
a fork in the road
and my comfort on the rugged
pilgrim's way.

Bei dem Herrn will ich stets
Einkehr halten,
er sei Speis und Trank und
Freude mir;
seine Gnade will ich lassen
walten,
ihm befehl ich Leib und Seele hier.

I will always find hospitality
from the Lord;
he is my food, my drink, my joy.
Let his grace have sway over me.
I commend my body and soul
to him.

2. Letter: Remembering Home

Choir: Heimat fuer Heimatlose

Soloist: Amanda Brunk

Quartette: Lynda Neufeld Mieske, Elvera Froese, Jake Willms,
Tim Wiebe.

J. Erdle, arr. S Mueller

Wir sind ein Volk, vom Strom
der Zeit gespuelet ans Erdeneiland,
voll Unruh und von Herzeleid
bis Heim uns holt der Heiland.
Das Vaterhaus ist immer nah

We are a people washed up on earth
as pilgrims by the stream of time,
filled with restlessness and heartache.
Until the saviour takes us home,
our father's house is always near,
however

wie wechselnd auch die Lose
Es ist das Kreuz von Golgatha,
Heimat fuer Heimatlose.

changable our lot, however
changeable our lot. The home of the
homeless is the cross of Golgatha.

Wie auch der Strom dein Schiff
dann treibt,
ob Sturm und Not es trafen,
wenn Jesus stets am Steuer bleibt,
faehrt's sicher nach dem Hafen.
Als Willkommgruss blueht
purpurn da ein Strauss von
Saronrosen,
Blutstroepeln sind's von Golgatha,
vom Heim der Heimatlosen.

However the stream propels your
ship, when storms and stress befall it,
if Jesus remains at the helm, it will
safely enter port.
It will be welcomed by a
crimson bouquet of Roses of Sharon
-a crimson bouquet of Sharon's Roses
blossoms there. They are drops of
from Golgatha, from the homeland
blood of the homeless.

3. Letter: Deeply Beloved Brother Hans

Choir: Cast Thy Burden Upon The Lord F. Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Cast thy burden upon the Lord,
And He shall sustain thee:
He never will suffer the righteous to fall;
He is at thy right hand.
Thy mercy, Lord, is great,
and far above the heavens,
let none be made ashamed,
that wait upon Thee!

4. Letter: Never Hearing The Word of God

Choir: *Vertrauen Und Hoffen Auf Gott*

G. Knak (1806-1878) Music Trad.

Keiner wird zu Schanden, welcher Gottes harrt! Soll ich sein der Erste, der zu schanden ward? Nein das ist unmöglich, Du getreuer Hort! Eher faellt der Himmel, Eh mich taescht dein Wort. Du hast zu gesaget, wer da bittet nimmt; Wer da sucht, soll finden was ihm Gott bestimmt. Wer im festen Glauben mutig klopfet an, Dem wird ohne Zweifel endlich aufgetan.	No one will be put to shame who waits on God. Should I be the first one put to shame? No! That's impossible, faithful Refuge. Heaven would fall before your word disappointed me. At your command I'm ready to risk it Lord, to lay on your heart—you who count our tears—all my secret sorrows, all that torments me, all my cares, my own and others' needs.
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5. Letter: From Siberia With Love

Choir: *Ich Bete An Die Macht Der Liebe*

Gerhard Tersteegen, 1697-1769

Dimitri Sephanowisch Bortniansky, 1892

Choir and Congregation: v1 english and /or german; v2 english

Ich bete an die Macht der Liebe, die sich in Jesu offenbart; ich geb' mich hin dem freien Triebe, mit dem ich Wurm geleibet ward. Ich will ansatt an mich zu denken, ins Meer der Liebe mich versenken.	I worship the power of Love, which reveals itself in Jesus. I surrender to the boundless Force with which I, a worm, was loved. Instead of thinking of myself I want to sink into the ocean of love.
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6. Letter: The Torment of Silence

Choir: *He Watching Over Israel* F. Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

He watching over Israel, slumbers not nor sleeps;
Shoudst thou, walking in grief, languish,
He will quicken thee.

PART THREE

A. REFUGEE MAKERS vs AN ABSENT GOD

- 1 Things Fall Apart, The Center Cannot Hold
2. Reading: Habbakuk 1: 2-4
Matthew: 11: 2-6
3. Borrowed Language

B. GLIMPSES OF THE PROMISED LAND

1. Bethlehem Re-Visited
Reading: Matt. 11:6; 25:35; Menno Simons
"True evangelical faith . . .
Choir: *O How Shall I Receive Thee?* Melchoir Teschner, 1613
Paul Gerhard 1653, Trans. Arthur T. Russel, 1851
2. Mountain Top Perspectives
Choir: *Bright Canaan* arr. Shaw / Parker
3. The Cloud of Witnesses
Solo: *Then Shall The Righteous Shine* F. Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
Soloist: Fred Wieler
4. Precursors to Faith
5. HALLELUJAH G.F. Handel (1685-1759)
6. Recessional

George and Esther Wiebe are well known for their work as a conductor/accompanist team in many parts of the Mennonite world. At present George is Professor Emeritus of Canadian Mennonite Bible College and Minister



of Music at the North Kildonan Mennonite Church, Winnipeg, MB. Esther is Associate Professor of Music at Canadian Mennonite Bible College. Sabbaticals have allowed them to pursue studies at USC in Los Angeles, the Dermold Musikakademie, Germany, and Indiana University, Bloomington, IN and given them opportunity for service in Germany, Mexico, South America and the former USSR.

Although professional in their areas of expertise—conducting, musicology, hymnology, accompanying, arranging/composing, their strongest interest lies in furthering the quality and vitality of the music in the local churches.

Their leadership of the well-known FAITH AND LIFE MALE CHOIR continues to be a significant part of their ministry. Over a period of 8 years this choir has toured Canada, the U.S., Paraguay, Brazil, Germany, and the Ukraine. A tour to Mexico is being planned for July, '97.

George and Esther have 3 musically active sons and daughters-in-law and 12 grandchildren.

Jack Dueck was born to Mennonite immigrant parents in Southern Alberta. Growing up in a large, extended family and immigrant church, he absorbed a vast store of indelible experiences and stories. The dramatic stories of humor, irony and religion, the haunting songs, and the raw memories of his peoples' Russian sojourn and holocaust formed the core of his early years.

He received an M.A. in literature from the university of Western

Washington and a Ph. D. from Notre Dame University, South Bend, IN. He taught high school and was professor of English at Goshen College, Goshen, IN. He conducted school and church choirs, directed youth and children camps, led student study groups in Ireland and Europe and operated food hospitality establishments.

Studies in management prompted him to developing a consulting company, People Management Associates, offering seminars in issues of creative, meaningful and productive organizations and work. His interests in human community and in 'people' stories led him to shape storytelling programs, story sermons, motivational talks and performances on redemptive humor. Utilizing religious and literary themes he has scripted productions as diverse as Sarah Binks: Sweet Songstress of Saskatchewan and Mysteries of Grace and Judgment.

Jack and Eleanor now have their home in Kitchener, Ontario and have three grown children.



Mary Wiens grew up in Grunthal Manitoba. In 1981 she moved to Toronto to attend Ryerson Polytechnic. She graduated with a journalism degree in 1984 and that same year started to work as a reporter in the Toronto News Room of CBC Radio. She now makes her home in Toronto and continues as a reporter for CBC radio.

David Worth lives with his wife Linda and two children in Kitchener, Ontario and serves as executive director of MCC Ontario.

SOJOURN SINGERS

George Wiebe, *director* / Esther Wiebe, *piano*

SOPRANOS:

Pam Albrecht, Charlene Epp, Esther Falk Fast, Carol Giesbrecht, Donna Matthies, Lynda Neufeld Mieske, Tracey Regier, Sherry Snider-Sawatzky, Gail Widemann, Marilyn Winter.

ALTOS:

Amanda Brunk, Ellie Dyck, Elsie Flaming, Elvera Froese, Margaret Heinrichs, Marianne Irvin, Louise Mulcaster, Linda Regehr, Martha Wiens, Susan Willms.

TENORS:

Dan Enns, Joey Falk, Henry Georzen, Darren Pries Klassen, Tim Neufeldt, David Sawatzky, Gerry Steingart, Fred Wieler, Jake Willms.

BASSES

Conrad Brunk, David Epp, John Klassen, Alan Martin, J.D. Penner, Jeff Sawatzky, Richard Schweitzer, Robert Schweitzer, Tim Wiebe, Vic Winter.

OBOIST: Karen Peterson

PROGRAMME COORDINATOR: Eleanor Toews Dueck

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