



October Hymn of the Month The Lord of the Dance

English songwriter, Sydney Carter, wrote the words to the hymn "*The Lord of the Dance*" in 1963. It shares events from the life of Jesus, in the first person voice of Jesus, portraying his life and mission as a dance. Carter used the melody of the American Shaker song, "*Simple Gifts*," written in 1848 by Elder Joseph Brackett in Alfred, Maine. It was originally written as a religious dance song to be used in Shaker worship services. Aaron Copland popularized this tune when he used it as the theme of his famous ballet, "*Appalachian Spring*."

Sydney Carter's inspiration for writing the lyrics to "Lord of the Dance" was not only the life of Jesus, but he also wanted to pay tribute to Shaker music.

Sydney Carter wrote:

"I see Christ as the incarnation of the piper who is calling us. He dances that shape and pattern which is at the heart of our reality. I sing of the dancing pattern in the life and words of Jesus.

Whether Jesus ever leaped in Galilee to the rhythm of a pipe or drum I do not know. We are told that David danced (and as an act of worship too), so it is not impossible. The fact that many Christians have regarded dancing as a bit ungodly (in a church, at any rate) does not mean that Jesus did.

The Shakers didn't. This sect flourished in the United States in the nineteenth century, but the first Shakers came from Manchester in England, where they were sometimes called the "Shaking Quakers". They hived off to America in 1774, under the leadership of Mother Anne. They established celibate communities - men at one end, women at the other; though they met for work and worship. Dancing, for them, was a spiritual activity. They also made furniture of a functional, lyrical simplicity. Even the cloaks and bonnets that the women wore were distinctly stylish, in a sober and forbidding way.

Their hymns were odd, but sometimes of great beauty: from one of these (*Simple Gifts*) I adapted this melody. I could have written another for the words of 'Lord of the Dance' (some people have), but this was so appropriate that it seemed a waste of time to do so. Also, I wanted to salute the Shakers." *Green Print for Song*, Stainer & Bell (1974)

Wikipedia.org

AmericanMusicPreservation.com

Buddy Pack Collection

With school back in session, it is time to start collecting food donations for the Buddy Pack Program. One in five local children faces hunger, and it is hard to learn on an empty stomach. The Camden R-III Buddy Pack Program sends food home on Fridays with elementary students who have extra needs, in the hope that they will not go hungry on the weekends. The idea is to have nutritious foods that the children do not have to cook; foods they can just open and eat/drink. The current number of Camden R3 Buddy Pack kids is 465, but not all of the forms and been turned in yet so the number continues to grow.



Buddy Packs

For Kids

The food list includes:
Peanut butter crackers
Pop-top canned fruits
Pop-top canned soup
Pop-top canned meats
Peanut Butter (12oz. plastic jar)
Granola Bars
100% Fruit Juice

Please bring your food donations to church and place in the grocery cart labeled Buddy Pack Food, in Fellowship Hall. If you would prefer to contribute money, you should make your check out to Community Christian Church and write Buddy Pack Program on the memo line. You can provide one child with a Buddy Pack for an entire school year for a donation of just \$180 or \$15 a month. Sponsoring a Buddy Pack is a wonderful opportunity to change a young person's life.

Thank you for your continued support of our children in need. Judy Wingate

To clear up any confusion and to give context: Marjorie Martain, one of our Windsor Estate worship attendees, wanted to share a write-up about herself. This was originally shared at Windsor Estates, but permission was granted for us to include the insert about Marjorie in last month's newsletter. What an amazing woman! We hope you enjoyed it!

Let's be the church together!!!

We are offering something for newborn through 12th grade EVERY Wednesday night (except for days there is no school or early release).

*There is a community meal at 5 pm for EVERYONE.

*After the meal, the JYF (2nd through 5th), Chi-Rho (6th through 8th), and CYF (9th through 12th) will have devotion, games, and activities until 7:00 pm.

*Childcare will be provided for newborn through 1st grade from 5:15 to 7:15 too.

Very exciting times!

Contact Pastor Brown if you have questions.

