

## Blessed to Be a Blessing

Prone as we are to trivialize life,  
to measure it by nameless scatter'd things,  
I long for moments with more permanence.  
One such was offered me just last evening  
when our Salem choir accompanied by  
a soloist and instrumentalists  
performed Bradley Ellingboe's *Requiem*.

The stage was set for my receiving it  
by a single phrase in the opening hymn,  
Robert Baxter's "O Holy Angels Bright."  
Souls at rest and saints who now serve below  
were urged in time and space to sing God's praise,  
"with angels bright who wait at God's right hand,"  
each "taking our part with a well-tuned heart."

And what was the phrase that moved my spirit?  
"Take what he gives and praise...through good and ill."  
How better prepare one's mind and spirit  
to enter wholly into what followed?  
*Requiem*—life and death merged in the Light  
of divine creation and end-time hope,  
what God has prepared for those who love him.

People went away diff'rent than they came.  
The Spirit had led us to deeper realms  
both within ourselves and beyond ourselves.  
Our God who was and is and is to be  
came through his Spirit to sanctify us,  
blessing our *Requiem* worship of him  
and preparing us to be a blessing.