

# We Are What We Love - Oct.27, 2019

Chapter 4: *What Story Are You In?*

## Historic Christian Worship: Christianity in Bulgaria:

- **865 AD** – Christianity became the official religion in Bulgaria, [Tsar Boris I of Bulgaria](#) (ruled 852-889)
- [Saints Cyril and Methodius](#) – Glagolitic script, **c.863 AD**
- Clement of Ohrid, Naum of Preslav – Cyrillic script, **886-893 AD** - found refuge in Bulgaria, taught 3500 students to translate the Bible in the Old Church Slavonic language

# Historic Christian Worship

- [Eastern Orthodox Worship](#) – emphasis on physicality, all senses participate:
- **Sights:** icons, frescoes, architecture, vestments, candles, processions
- **Sounds:** chanting, singing, bells
- **Scents:** incense
- **Tastes:** bread, wine, wheat, water
- **Actions:** sign of the cross, bowing and prostrating

# Christian Hymns

- **Thomas Aquinas** (1225-1274) wrote this about hymn singing:

*“A hymn is the praise of God with song; a song is the exultation of the mind dwelling on eternal things, bursting forth in the voice.”*

- [St. John Koukouzelis](#), the angel-voiced (1280-1360)- a Byzantine medieval Orthodox, Christian composer, singer & reformer of Orthodox Church music – more melodious style of singing: [Praise the Lord to the Heavens](#) (5:55 min)

# Christian Hymns

- **Basil of Caesarea**, Cappadocia (c.329-379), St Basil the Great; supported the Nicene Creed, a father of communal monasticism in Eastern Christianity:

*“The Spirit mixed sweetness of melody with doctrine so that inadvertently **we would absorb the benefit of the words through gentleness and ease of hearing.** O the wise invention of the teacher who contrives that in our singing we learn what is profitable, and that thereby **doctrine is somehow more deeply impressed upon our souls.**”*

# Christian Hymns

- **John Chrysostom** [Gr. “golden-mouthed”] (347-407), archbishop of Constantinople; [Divine Liturgy](#) (10:54 min)

*“When God saw that the majority of men were slothful and that they approached spiritual reading with reluctance ...– He mixed melody with prophecy, so that, enticed by the rhythm and melody, all might raise sacred hymns to Him with great eagerness. **For nothing so arouses the soul, gives it wings, sets it free from earth, releases it from the prison of the body, teaches it to love wisdom, and to condemn all the things of this life, as concordant melody and sacred song composed in rhythm.**”*

*“From the spiritual hymns, however, proceeds much of value, much utility and sanctity, **for the words purify the mind and the Holy Spirit descends swiftly upon the mind of the singer.** For those who sing with understanding invoke the grace of the Spirit.”*

# Cherubic Hymn/Chant

- Sung during the Byzantine liturgy; the hymn symbolically incorporates those present at the liturgy into the presence of the angels gathered around God's throne; it can be traced back to Saint Basil and John Chrysostom's redaction of Basil's liturgical text:

(1) **Cappella Romana in a virtual Hagia Sophia** - [Cherubic Hymn](#) (4:41)

(2) Byzantine chant - [Hymn to the Thetokos](#), Greek Byzantine choir (10:49)

(3) [Praise the Name of the Lord](#) – *Psalm 134*, sung by monks from [Dechani Monastery](#), Kosovo (10:14)

(4) Music of the Eastern Orthodox Church - [Bulgarian Chant](#) (24:36)

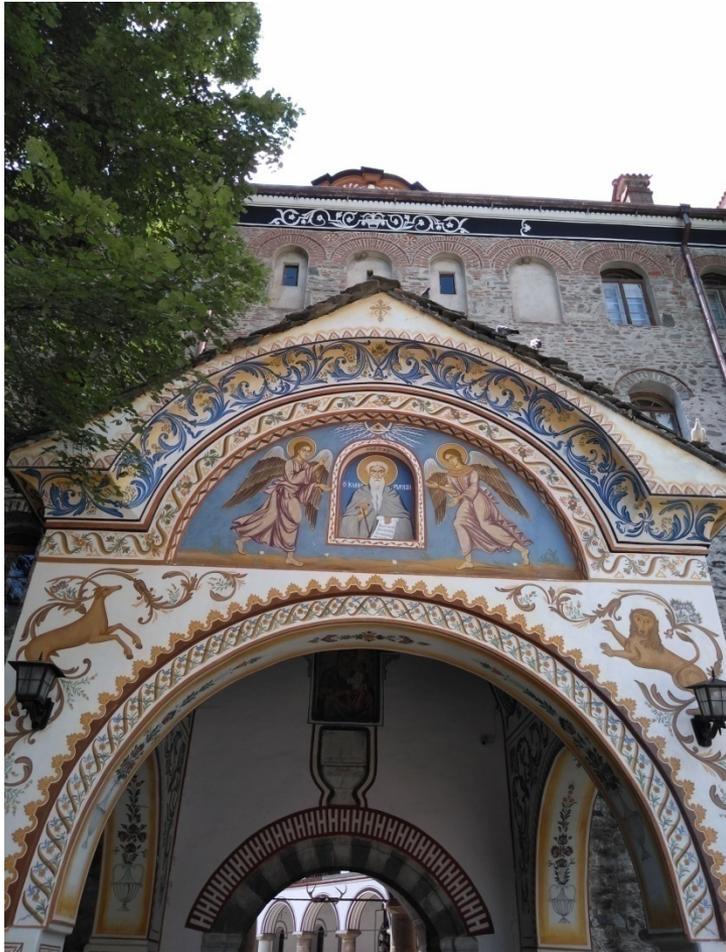
(5) [Prayer vigil at Rila Monastery](#) (10:03) – live service

- [The Divine Music Project](#)

# The Church as a Cultural Monument: [Boyana Church](#) – 11 c., 13 c.- frescoes dated 1259



# Rila Monastery – 10 c., 14 c., 19 c. (1834-46)



St. John of Rila (876-c.946)

# Rila Monastery



# Arbanasi – Church of the Nativity, 16-17 c. Iconostasis



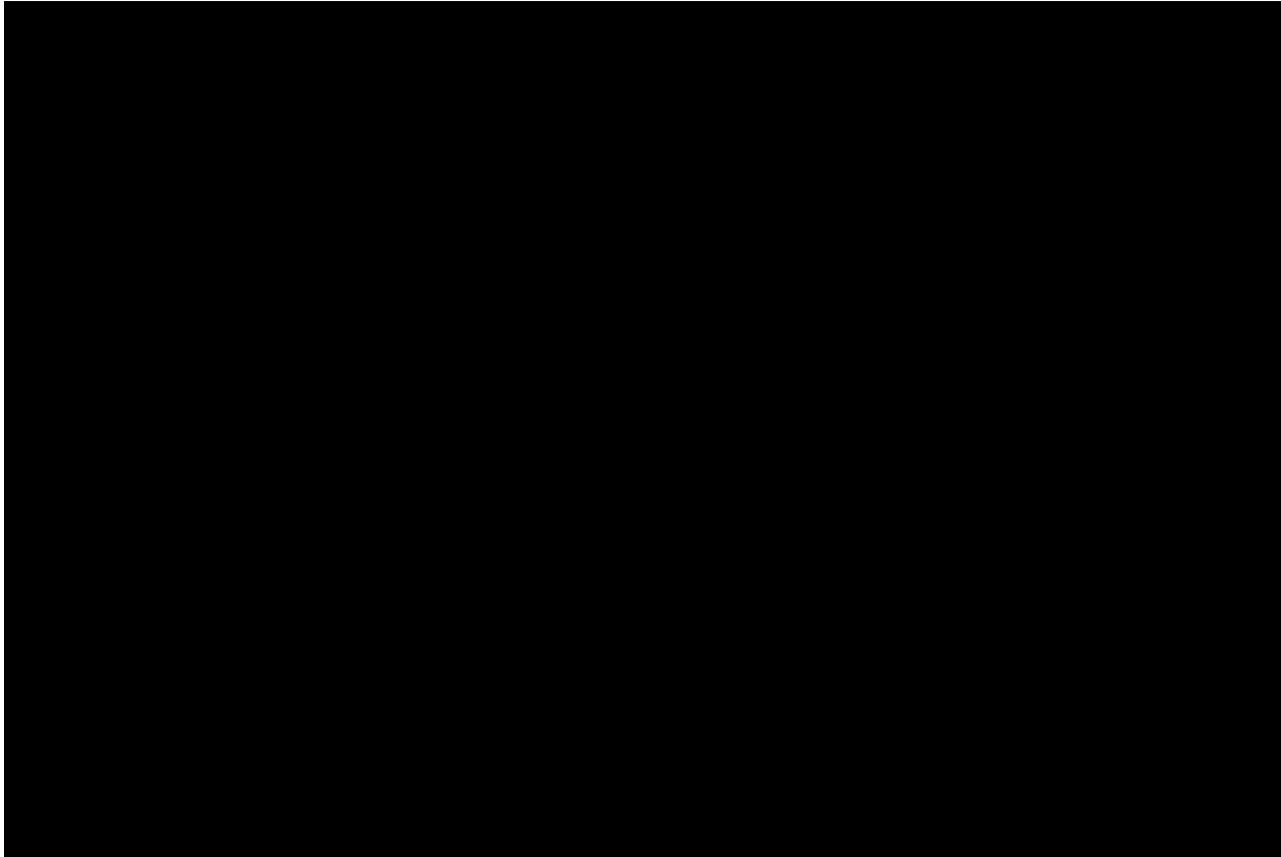
# Church Music and Ceremonies

- [Boris Christoff](#) (1914-1993), one of the greatest basses of the 20th century:

[Praise the Lord's Name](#) (*Hvalite ime Gospodnoe*) - composed by Dobri Hristov (1875-1941) (4:40); video shows some Bulgarian monasteries and churches

- [The inauguration of Neophyte](#) as the Bulgarian Patriarch, the leader of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, 02/24/2013 (1:41:07 hrs, 34-40 min - vestiture ceremony)

# Church Bells



# Worship – the Heart of Discipleship

“Christian worship doesn’t just teaches us how to think; it teaches us **how to love**, and it does so by inviting us into the biblical story and **implanting that story in our bones.**” (p.85)

- “An understanding of God that we “know” on a register **deeper than the intellect**, an understanding of the gospel on the level of **imagination ...**” (p.86)

# Worship Character-izes Us

- **Secular liturgies:** consumerism, acquisition, domination as *telos*
- **Spiritual liturgies:** *telos* in the Lord's Prayer; God will not destroy, but will *renew* all things
- “The biblical vision of our *telos* is ... a vision of **how to be human**” (p.86)

# Worship Character-izes Us: How to be human

- “In Christ, the image of the invisible God, we become the image bearers we were created to be.” (p.87)
- **N.T. Wright:** a transformation of character through the work of the Holy Spirit, in the rhythms of worship; “keep the rules”, “follow our hearts”, live “authentically” (p.87)

# Worship Character-izes Us:

## How to be human

- “So to know whether a habit is a virtue or a vice, we need to answer the question: “What are we here for?” (p.89)
- The need to articulate our goals
- We become humans by rehearsing the gospel drama over and over again (p.90)

# Worship Character-izes Us:

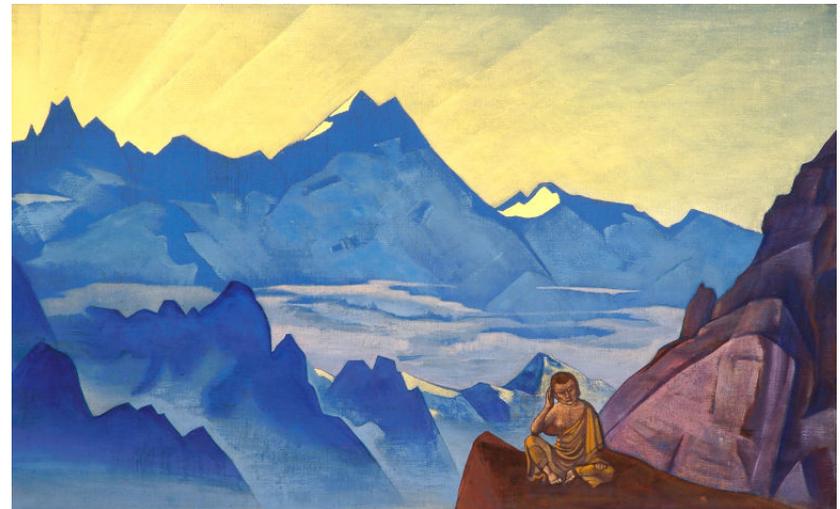
## How to be human

- Prayer and activism – prayer ranks higher than all action
- Distinction between worldly responsibility and Christian mission. “Whoever does not come **to know the face of God in contemplation**, will not recognize it in action, even when it reveals in the face of the oppressed and humiliated.”  
(p.91)

# Worship Restor(i)es Us

- “Re-formative Christian worship needs to capture our imagination” (p.91):
  - by story, poetry, metaphor, **images**
- “Worship works as **fiction** does: ...show don't tell” ... “Fiction does not ask us to believe things, but to imagine them.” (p.93)

ART: Nikolai (Nicholas) Roerich (1874-1947)



# Worship Restor(i)es Us

- “Worship that renews is worship that **renarrates our identity at an unconscious level**. In order to do that, Christian worship needs to be (1) governed by the biblical story and to invite us in (2) by speaking to our embodiment.” This twofold conviction “informs historic Christian worship.” (p.95)

# References

- Boris I of Bulgaria: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boris\\_I\\_of\\_Bulgaria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boris_I_of_Bulgaria)
- Saints Cyril and Methodius: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saints\\_Cyril\\_and\\_Methodius](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saints_Cyril_and_Methodius)
- Eastern Orthodox Worship: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern\\_Orthodox\\_worship](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Orthodox_worship)
- John Koukouzelis: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Koukouzelis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Koukouzelis)
- Praise the Lord from the Heavens (hymn): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8OBooOp8KhI>
- Bulgarian Patriarch Neophyte serves Divine Liturgy with the chanting of Sofia's Priestly Choir: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Flhht-pQGJ8>
- Cherubikon: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cherubikon>
- Cappella Romana, virtual Hagia Sophia sound, Stanford University project: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rsLgLNga-Q>
- Medieval Byzantine Chant dedicated to Virgin Mary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Q8iOCYs-CM>
- Praise the name of the Lord, sung by Russian female choir: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUOD22Dicjg&fbclid=IwAR38Utb5r-7n2Q7kn03it6iblyrNOBIV\\_CcwoM\\_QwvtPiYtBh8y8qLeENgY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUOD22Dicjg&fbclid=IwAR38Utb5r-7n2Q7kn03it6iblyrNOBIV_CcwoM_QwvtPiYtBh8y8qLeENgY)

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- Praise the name of the Lord (hymn, Dechani Monastery, Kosovo): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=inon5KmvvVs>
- Bulgarian Orthodox chant: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-XMydhFXFk>
- Prayer vigil at Rila Monastery: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yyNfSd5iDps>
- The Divine Music Project: <http://www.stanthonysmonastery.org/music/Cherubic.htm>
- Boyana Church: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/42/>
- Rila Monastery: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/216>
- Praise the name of the Lord, sung by Boris Christoff: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6RQB-WomgXY>
- Inauguration of Patriarch Neophyte of Bulgaria (33-40 min, vestiture ceremony): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6RQB-WomgXY>
- Nicholas Roerich Museum, New York: <http://www.roerich.org/roerich-paintings-selected.php>