



Questions:

1. What comes to mind when you think of emptiness? Do you consider it to be a good thing, a bad thing, or something else entirely?
2. What stood out for you from Philippians 2:1-11?
3. Eric suggests that emptying ourselves in order to allow God to work in our lives might actually allow for greater self-expression. Do you agree? Why or why not? In either case, what do you think being empty means?
4. Does your life include acts of improvisation? If so, how do they happen? Do you feel you are alone in that improvisation, or do you have a sense of co-creating with God?
5. How is the act of getting empty also and act of trust and faith?

EPISODE TITLE: “Called to Get Empty”

Vocatio, Episode 5

Featured Guest: *Bob Ravenscroft*

Leader and pianist Bob Ravenscroft has long been a man in pursuit of sonic perfection. His family literally has music in its blood, traceable all the way back to Thomas Ravenscroft, composer of the Whole Booke of Psalms in 1621. Four centuries later, Bob continues to bring a spiritual element and meditative reverence for the environment to his music, but he draws upon an extensive jazz writing, arranging and performing background to create “live” compositions, enabling his audiences to virtually become part of the creative process. As a performer, Bob Ravenscroft has worked with countless fine musicians, both in his own combos and with others, for more than 20 years. His Jazzbird Studio played a pivotal role in the Phoenix music community for almost two decades, offering jazz instruction, audio production, and numerous concert series. An able and avid teacher, he has served on several jazz studies faculties over the years and has helped to shape scores of up-and-coming performers.

Pneuma Divina Scripture: Philippians 2: 1-11

2If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷ but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness, And being found in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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