

# **“Songs of the Beloved”**

## *A Service of Carols Toward the Cross*

**Gathering Meditation**

**“Spirit’s Beloved”**

Paperless

I am Spirit’s beloved with whom God is well pleased  
I am Spirit’s beloved with whom God is well pleased.

**Call to Worship**

*From the Third Song of Isaiah*

Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
**And the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.**  
For behold, darkness covers the land;  
**Deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.**  
But over you the Lord will rise,  
**And God’s glory will appear upon you.**

Alleluia! The Lord has shown forth his glory:  
**O Come, let us worship. Alleluia!**

**Mark 9:2-7**

*The Transfiguration*

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!”

## Song

“Swiftly pass the clouds of glory”

*Text: Thomas Troeger    Tune: John Tirro*

1. Swift - ly pass the clouds of glo - ry, Hea - ven's voice, the dazz - ling light;  
2. Glimpsed and gone the re - vel - a - tion, They shall gain and keep its truth,  
3. Lord, trans - fi - gure our per - cep - tion With the pur - est light that shines,

Mo - ses and E - li - jah va - nish; Christ a - lone com - mands the height!  
Not by build - ing on the moun - tain A - ny shrine or sac - red booth,  
And re - cast our life's in - ten - tions To the shape of Your de - signs,

Pe - ter, James, and John fall si - lent, Turn - ing from the sum - mit's rise  
But by fol - low - ing their Sa - vior Through the val - ley to the cross  
Till we seek no o - ther glo - ry Than what lies past Cal - vary's hill

Down - ward toward the sha - dowed val - ley Where their Lord has fixed His  
And by test - ing faith's re - si - lience Through be - tray - al, pain, and  
And our liv - ing and our dy - ing And our ris - ing by Your

eyes. \_\_\_\_\_  
loss. \_\_\_\_\_  
will. \_\_\_\_\_

## Isaiah 58: 6-12

### *The Prophet Institutes a Fast*

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

## Song

## “Beautiful Things”

*Gungor*

All this pain  
I wonder if I'll ever find my way  
I wonder if my life could really change, at all

All this earth  
Could all that is lost ever be found?  
Could a garden come out from this ground, at all?

**You make beautiful things  
You make beautiful things out of the dust  
You make beautiful things  
You make beautiful things out of us**

All around,  
Hope is springing up from this old ground  
Out of chaos life is being found, in you

### *Chorus*

### *Bridge*

**You make me new,  
You are making me new  
You make me new,  
You are making me new**

### *Chorus*

## Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Mark 1:9-15***Jesus is Baptized by John in the Jordan River*

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

**Song****"There's Wilderness All Around Us"**


*Text: Kyle Matthews    Tune: John Tirro*




1. There's wild-er-ness all \_\_\_\_ a - round \_\_\_\_ us, We don't know where we are. \_\_\_\_  
 2. There's hun - ger deep \_\_\_\_ with-in \_\_\_\_ us, But no \_\_\_\_ food can be found.  
 3. There's cha - os in \_\_\_\_ our camp - ground, We don't know how to live. \_\_\_\_  
 4. The Pro - mised Land lies be - fore \_\_\_\_ us, Where milk and hon - ey flow.



\_\_\_\_ No path has e - ver been made \_\_\_\_ here, The dark-ness cov-ers the stars. \_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_ Pro - vi - sions are \_\_\_\_ ex - haust - ed, Our fu - ture is \_\_\_\_ in doubt.  
 \_\_\_\_ We fight and hurt one a - no - ther, We take more than \_\_\_\_ we give. \_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_ We fear the strug-gles we face \_\_\_\_ there. We fear the great un-known.



\_\_\_\_ By night \_\_\_\_ the fire - light guides us, by day \_\_\_\_ a cloud gives  
 \_\_\_\_ And yet \_\_\_\_ we wake to man - na, and wa - ter comes from  
 \_\_\_\_ But love \_\_\_\_ does not for - sake us, Its laws \_\_\_\_ are carved in  
 \_\_\_\_ And yet, \_\_\_\_ we know these bat - tles are God's \_\_\_\_ and not our



hope. There's wild - er - ness all a - round us, but we are not a-lone.  
 stone! There's hun - ger deep with - in us, but we are not a-lone.  
 stone! We hon - or God and each o - ther, for we are not a-lone.  
 own. The Pro-mised Land lies be - fore us, and we are not a-lone.

**John 12:12-16***Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem*

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord— the King of Israel!" Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: "Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" His disciples did not understand these things at

first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

## Response

## “God Was There”

*Text: John Bell*

(w/Hosannas)

*Music: F. McKendree, adapt. Z. Nyein*



When the wind on cha - os blew, when the world from no - thing  
While the trades-man was de - cried, while the sa - vior was de -  
In each dark-ness, cloud and fire, in the quiet as words re -

grew, When the pri-mal dream came true, \_\_\_\_\_ God was there. When the  
nied, while his son was cru - ci - fied, \_\_\_\_\_ God was there. God was  
tire, in our lost and best de - sires, \_\_\_\_\_ God is there! Not for

ear - liest mor - tals talked When the vir - gin land was walked, when e -  
there, but not in vain, shield-ing joy and shar - ing pain, rais - ing  
what we are or do, not for what we've jour-neyed through, but for

mer - gent faith was rocked, \_\_\_\_\_ God was there. *in Lent:* Ho -  
life to live a - gain, \_\_\_\_\_ God was there! *Other times:* A -  
all you call us to, \_\_\_\_\_ God be there!

san - na to the Lord! \_\_\_\_\_ Sing praise for - e - ver - more! E -  
le - - lu - ia! A - le - - lu - ia! A

ter - nal God in flesh: \_\_\_\_\_ The Word made man - i - fest!  
le - - lu - ia! A - le - - lu - ia!

**Genesis 1:27-31b** *God creates the world and calls it “good.”*

*(Easter Vigil Text)*

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in

its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

## Psalm 139

*Setting by Bernadette Farrell*

1. O God, you search me and you know me. All my  
 2. You know my rest - ing and my ris - ing. You dis -  
 3. Be - fore a word is on my tongue, Lord, You have  
 4. Al - though your Spir - it is up - on me, Still I  
 5. For you cre - at - ed me and shaped me, Gave me

thoughts lie o - pen to your gaze. When I  
 cern my pur - pose from a - far, And with  
 known its mean - ing through and through. You are  
 search for shel - ter from your light. There is  
 life with - in my moth - er's womb. For the

walk or lie down you are be - fore me: Ev - er the  
 love ev - er - last - ing you be - seige me: In ev - 'ry  
 with me be - yond my un - der - stand - ing: God of my  
 no - where on earth I can es - cape you: E - ven the  
 won - der of who I am, I praise you: Safe in your

mak - er and keep - er of my days.  
 mo - ment of life or death, you are.  
 pres - ent, my past and fu - ture, too.  
 dark - ness is ra - diant in your sight.  
 hands, all cre - a - tion is made new.

## Ezekiel 37:1-6

*The Valley of Dry Bones*

*(Easter Vigil Text)*

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

## Silence

### Closing Song

“Love Divine”

*Text: Charles Wesley Setting: Mark Miller*

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven  
 2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev -  
 3. Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot -

- to earth come down; fix in us thy  
 - ery troub - led breast! Let us all in  
 less let us be. Let us see thy

hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown!  
 thee in - her - it; let us find that sec - ond rest.  
 great sal - va - tion per - fect-ly re - stored in thee:

Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
 changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure un - bound - ed love thou art;  
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,  
 till in heav'n we take our place,

vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion;  
 pray and praise thee with - out ceas - ing,  
 till we cast our crowns be - fore thee,

en - ter ev - ery tremb - ling heart.  
 glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 lost in won - der, love and praise.

**Prayer**

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquillity the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**