

Sunday, May 5, 2024 – 6th Sunday of Easter

LINKS TO BENNETT'S PLAYLISTS ON SPOTIFY

Prelude: <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/6RjzpzBpK4rZJSXTYm2UH8>

Postlude: <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/OiFAY3kf0RhZliTljOskWY>

GATHERING HYMN: “God, We Gather as Your People” (For All the Children)

by David Lohman

God, we gather as your people
to raise our song above,
and we dare to claim the promise of your love.
Though the day may not yet be here,
we trust it soon will be,
when your children will be free.

Oh, may our hearts and minds be opened;
fling the church doors open wide.
May there be room enough for everyone inside.
For in God there is a welcome, in God we all belong.
May that welcome be our song.

Oh, we sing for all the children,
that one day they be free;
and we sing for generations yet to be,
that they never have a reason
to doubt that they are blest.
May they, in your love, find rest.

Oh, we pray for all the young lives
cut short by fear and shame,
so afraid of who they are and whom they love.
May the message now be banished
that your love is for the few;
may their faith in you renew.

God, we're working for the future
when children far and wide
can live their lives with dignity and pride.
As they grow in strength and stature,
may they join us hand in hand,
as against all hate we stand.

“God, We Gather as Your People” (For All the Children) is a contemporary hymn by David Lohman (born 1961), written in 2007. It was reprinted in the ELCA’s 2020 supplemental hymnal *All Creation Sings* (ACS 1038).

David Lohman is a Christian singer-songwriter and LGBTQ+ activist. The son of a Lutheran pastor, Lohman was born in Minneapolis and earned a B.A. in theatre and music from Minnesota State University Moorhead, and an M.A. in choral conducting at the College-Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Lohman came out as gay in 1984, shortly after graduating from college. He then spent two years as assistant conductor of the Twin Cities Gay Men’s Chorus, where he “again and again saw the power of music to change hearts and minds,” including those in his own family. He then spent several years (1995–1999) as associate conductor on the national tour of *The Phantom of the Opera*.

Olympic figure skater Brian Boitano asked Lohman to arrange what was to become his signature piece, “Shenandoah/They Call the Wind Maria.” Lohman also was the arranger for *Yesterday Once More: Music of the Carpenters*, and performed with the Dallas, St. Louis, and Minnesota symphony orchestras.

Returning to Minneapolis, Lohman spent 16 years (2000–2016) as minister of music for what is now Living Table United Church of Christ. Originally called Spirit of the Lakes, in 1992 it became the first predominantly LGBTQ+ congregation to be welcomed into a U.S. mainline Protestant denomination.

Since 2016, Lohman has been director of music at St. Luke Presbyterian Church in Minnetonka, Minnesota. He also has had an active career at the Ordway, the History Theatre, the Guthrie, and other theaters in Minnesota.

About this hymn, Lohman writes: “This is the very first song for which I wrote both music and lyrics. It wasn’t long after I started to work for the Institute for Welcoming Resources, part of the LGBTQ–Welcoming Faith Movement, helping to create congregations fully welcoming of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

“One of our key partners in this work was the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ. The Rev. Ann B. Day and her partner Donna Enberg headed up the Open and Affirming program, and after twenty years of visionary leadership, Ann and Donna were retiring. My colleague at the time, the Rev. Dr. Rebecca Voelkel, asked if I would write a hymn in honor of their profound contributions to the Welcoming Movement.

“The task was daunting, because I had never written lyrics before. I stared at a blank sheet for weeks as the deadline drew ever closer. Then I thought of the adage, ‘Write what you know.’ So, what did I know? Well, I was clear that the reason I was doing this Welcoming work was so that queer kids growing up after me wouldn’t have to experience the despair, isolation, and shame that had filled my own adolescent years. Once that was clear in my mind, thoughts began pouring onto the page and the song almost wrote itself.”

The hymn has become a favorite gathering hymn and song of welcome in many faith communities. In 2012, Catholics for Marriage Equality recorded the song along with a video for Minnesota’s successful marriage equality campaign.

SERVICE MUSIC FOR EASTER SEASON: "Mass of Spirit and Grace"

by Ricky Manalo

GLORY TO GOD

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth, peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
O God, heavenly One, O God, almighty Creator.

O Jesus Christ, Only Begotten One,
O God, Lamb of God, Child of the Most High,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of our Maker,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Way,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God Almighty.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Give thanks to our God, for God is good. Alleluia!
For God's mercy endures forever. Alleluia!

PRAYER OF JESUS

Mother, Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name;
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not
into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and
forever, now and forever, now and forever.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us. [repeat]

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace, grant us peace.

The *Mass of Spirit and Grace* by Roman Catholic composer Ricky Manalo (born 1965), first published in 2007, is our service music for the Easter season.

Ricky Manalo is a Roman Catholic priest in the Paulist order. Born in New York and raised in New Jersey, Manalo studied composition and piano at the Manhattan School of Music and theology at the Washington Theological Union. He was ordained a Paulist priest in 2000. He completed his Ph.D. in Asian-American liturgical studies in 2013 at the Graduate Theological Union (GTU) in Berkeley, California.

Manalo is the recipient of the 2018 Pastoral Musician of the Year Award by the National Association of Pastoral Musicians. When he is not traveling, he resides at St. Paul the Apostle Church in New York City.

Manalo previously taught at the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University (a member of the GTU in Berkeley) and lived at Old St. Mary's Cathedral in Chinatown, San Francisco.

Manalo's music can be found in Catholic and Protestant hymnals. He has written many articles and books on pastoral ministry, liturgical music, and intercultural communication, including collaborating with composers in the Philippines on a collection of liturgical songs.

Manalo is also the composer of a beautiful new setting of the *Exultet* (Easter proclamation), commissioned in 2014 in celebration of Andy Bouman's 20th anniversary as director of music at University Lutheran Chapel. It was first sung at the Chapel's Easter Vigil service in 2016.

PSALM 98: "All the Ends of the Earth"

by Bob Hurd (arr. by Craig Kingsbury)

*All the ends of the earth
have seen salvation.
All the ends of the earth
have seen the saving power of God,
the saving power of God.*

*Let us sing a new song
for the wondrous deeds of our God,
whose holy arm has prevailed,
bringing salvation and victory.*

*All the ends of the earth
have seen the power of God.
Ring out your joy; break into song;
all you lands sing praise.*

*Sing the praises of God;
with the harp and song give praise.
O trumpets sound! Joyfully sing;
sing to the ruler of all.*

"**All the Ends of the Earth**" is a contemporary setting of Psalm 98 by Bob Hurd (born 1950), first published in 1988. Craig Kingsbury (born 1952) provided the keyboard accompaniment.

Bob Hurd, Ph.D., has served as a teacher, composer, and liturgist in various pastoral and academic settings, including Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles; the Franciscan School of Theology in Berkeley; St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, California; Santa Clara University; and most recently, the School of Theology and Ministry at Seattle University.

Hurd began composing music shortly after Vatican II in the late 1960s, when the need arose for new music for the Catholic Church that the whole assembly could sing. Thus began many years of composing music for the liturgy, including being named Pastoral Musician of the Year in 2010 by the National Association of Pastoral Musicians.

Hurd's most recent book, *Compassionate Christ, Compassionate People* (Liturgical Press, 2019), reflects his years of teaching, writing, composing, and serving as a pastoral musician. It was voted first place in the category of liturgy by both the Association of Catholic Publishers and the Catholic Press Association.

Hurd was also an early pioneer of bilingual and multilingual music. He currently lives in Claremont, California with his wife, Pia Moriarty, who has collaborated with him on much of his bilingual music.

Craig Kingsbury studied music composition at the University of Southern California (B.M., 1975). He worked for many years in the Los Angeles area as a choral conductor, musical arranger, and singer. He spent two years in Europe singing opera and oratorio. He now resides in the Pacific Northwest, where he produces recordings, composes, edits, and arranges music.

From 1991 until his retirement in 2018, Kingsbury was a senior music editor at Oregon Catholic Press (OCP). Since 2021, he has returned to working part-time as a music editor at OCP.

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

by Charles Wesley and Rowland Hugh Prichard

*Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heav'n to earth come down!
Fix in us your humble dwelling;
all your faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, source of all compassion,
love unbounded, love all pure;
visit us with your salvation,
let your love in us endure.*

*Breathe, oh, breathe your loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in you inherit;
let us find your promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.*

*Come, Almighty, to deliver,
let us all your life receive;
suddenly return and never,
nevermore your temples leave.
You we would be always blessing,
serve you as your hosts above,
pray, and praise you without ceasing,
glory in your precious love.*

*Finish then your new creation,
pure and spotless, by your word;
let us see your great salvation
perfectly in you restored.
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we sing before the Almighty,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!*

"**Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**" is a beloved traditional English hymn, with text by Charles Wesley (1707–1788) and music by Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811–1880).

This is one of Wesley's best-known hymns (along with the Christmas hymn, "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" and the Easter hymn, "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today, Alleluia!"). Wesley's text is written in the form of a prayer. It was first published in *Hymns for those that Seek, and those that have Redemption* (1747).

The first verse is said to have been inspired by the "Song of Venus" from John Dryden's *King Arthur* (1691). Instead of Venus coming from Cyprus to the British Isles, Wesley's text speaks of God coming from heaven to earth.

The last line of the final verse ("lost in wonder, love, and praise!") may have been borrowed from Joseph Addison's hymn, "When All Your Mercies, O My God" (1712).

Charles Wesley (along with his older brother John) was one of the founders of Methodism in England. Born in Epworth, Lincolnshire, he was the youngest of the 18 children of Anglican rector Samuel Wesley and his wife Susanna.

Charles was educated at Westminster School and Oxford University, where his older brothers had also studied. He was ordained in 1735 and traveled with his brother John as a missionary to Georgia and South Carolina in the American colonies, returning to Britain a year later.

Influenced by hymns sung by Moravians who had emigrated from Bohemia to America, Charles had a "conversion experience" in 1738, which he saw as the beginning of his Christian life. He joined his brother John as an itinerant preacher, and began writing the hymns for which he would become known.

In 1749, Charles married Sarah Gwynne, daughter of a Welsh gentleman who had become a Methodist. She accompanied the brothers on their evangelistic journeys until Charles ceased to travel in 1765 due to ill health.

Despite their closeness, Charles and John did not always agree. In particular, Charles was strongly opposed to a breach with the Church of England, and on his deathbed asked to be buried at St. Marylebone Parish Church in London.

Charles wrote over 6,000 hymns in his lifetime. The lyrics to more than 100 of his hymns are still sung today. In 1995, the Gospel Music Association recognized his influence on the lyrics of gospel hymns by listing him in the Gospel Music Hall of Fame.

Rowland Hugh Prichard composed the tune, "Hyfrydol" (which means "good cheer" in Welsh), before he was twenty years old. It was included in his *Cyfaill y Cantorion* (1844), a collection of 44 hymn tunes intended for use in Sunday Schools. Born in North Wales, Prichard devoted his life to church music and congregational singing. Although he published several collections of hymn tunes, this one is the only tune still sung in the church today.

SANCTUS: "You Are Holy" (Du är helig)" by Per Harling

Sung as a canon (Part 1 and Part 2)

PART 1

*You are holy, you are whole.
You are always ever more
than we ever understand.
You are always at hand.
Blessed are you coming near.
Blessed are you coming here
to your church in wine and bread,
raised from soil, raised from dead.*

PART 2

*You are holy,
you are wholeness,
you are present.
Let the cosmos praise you, God!
Sing hosanna
in the highest!
Sing hosanna!
Sing hosanna to our God!*

"You Are Holy" (Swedish: *Du är helig*) is an energetic hymn of praise by Per Harling (born 1948), a Lutheran pastor in the Church of Sweden.

Harling wrote this hymn in the 1980s as the Sanctus ("Holy, holy, holy") for a youth mass that continues to be very popular in Sweden. The hymn has since spread all over the world and has been translated into many languages.

Many Lutherans in North America were introduced to this hymn by the Minneapolis musical group *Bread for the Journey* through their *Global Songs* music collections (published by Augsburg Fortress). It has since been published in the ELCA's 2006 hymnal *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW 525).

Per Gunnar Harling was born in Bromma, a borough in western Stockholm, Sweden. For many years, he served as a Lutheran pastor in Uppsala, Sweden and was involved with worship development for the Church of Sweden. He also hosted a series of devotional programs on Swedish radio and documentary programs on Swedish TV. From 2007 to 2012, Harling served as a pastor for Swedes living in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Harling is the author of several books, including a biography of Swedish hymnwriter Lina Sandell Berg (author of "Children of the Heavenly Father") published in 2003. He coordinated the worship committee for the Lutheran World Federation Assembly in Stuttgart in 2010. He was also the 2010–2011 Pearson Distinguished Professor of Swedish Studies at Bethany College, an ELCA college in Lindsborg, Kansas with Swedish American roots.

COMMUNION HYMN: "Peace I Leave with You"

by Barbara Bridge

*Peace I leave with you.
My peace I give to you.
Let not your hearts be troubled.
Peace be with you.*

*Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Have faith in God and faith in me.*

*In my Abba's house are many dwellings.
I go there to prepare a place for you.*

*I am the vine and you are the branches.
Remain in me; you will bear abundant fruit.*

"**Peace I Leave with You**" is a beautiful contemporary hymn by Roman Catholic composer Barbara Bridge (born 1950), published in 2015.

The text is based on John 14:1-2; 14:27; and 15:5. Jesus' words to the disciples from John 14 and 15 remind us to have faith, to remain close to God, and to receive the gift of peace.

Barbara Bridge has been involved in music ministry for many years as a cantor, soloist, choir director, composer, and event presenter for OCP (Oregon Catholic Press). She received her B.M. in music from Mount St. Mary's College in Los Angeles in 1984. She served as cantor at the Papal Mass in Los Angeles in 1987 and at various events such as the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress and for several gatherings of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians.

Since 1989, her commitment to promote and provide music for Taizé prayer has reached churches and retreat centers of various denominations. Her 135-song collection, *Hear the Prayers That Rise* (a collaboration with Sr. Suzanne Toolan, composer of the popular communion song, "I Am the Bread of Life") brings together people of various faith traditions in contemplative prayer through song and silence.

Bridge has contributed her voice and several of her compositions to various collections, including *A Lenten Journey* and *One with the Risen Lord* with Bob Hurd, as well as the recent collection, *Our Common Home*, with songs inspired by "Laudato Si," Pope Francis's Encyclical on the Environment. Her song "Now is the Acceptable Time" is commonly sung during the season of Lent.

After working for OCP for several years as part of their editorial team, Bridge retired from OCP in 2014. She lives in Portland, Oregon, where she continues to compose new music.

COMMUNION HYMN: "A New Commandment"

Anonymous; based on John 13:34-35

*A new commandment I give unto you:
that you love one another, as I have loved you;
that you love one another, as I have loved you.*

*By this may all know you are my disciples:
if you have love, one for another.
By this may all know you are my disciples:
if you have love, one for another.*

"A New Commandment" is an anonymous musical setting of John 13:34-35. It was first published in *Hymns for Today's Church* (1987) and *Supplement to Lutheran Hymnal* (1987; Lutheran Church of Australia).

It was later reprinted in the ELCA's 1995 supplemental hymnal *With One Voice* (WOV 664).

SENDING HYMN: "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!"

by Herbert F. Brokering and David N. Johnson

*Alleluia! Jesus is risen!
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!
Jesus is risen and we shall arise:
give God the glory! Alleluia!*

*Walking the way, Christ in the center,
telling the story to open our eyes;
breaking our bread, giving us glory:
Jesus, our blessing, our constant surprise.
Jesus is risen and we shall arise:
give God the glory! Alleluia!*

*Jesus the vine, we are the branches;
life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
heaven to earth, Christ to the people,
gift of the future now flowing to me.
Jesus is risen and we shall arise:
give God the glory! Alleluia!*

*Weeping, be gone; sorrow be silent:
death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing: "O grave, be open!"
Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light.
Jesus is risen and we shall arise:
give God the glory! Alleluia!*

*City of God, Easter forever,
golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
river of life, saints and archangels,
sing with creation to God the I AM!
Jesus is risen and we shall arise:
give God the glory! Alleluia!*

"**Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!**" is a contemporary Easter hymn, with text by Herbert F. Brokering (1926–2009) and tune by David N. Johnson (1922–1987), first published in 1995.

The text was inspired by the earlier hymn "Earth and All Stars," a paraphrase of Psalm 148 that Brokering wrote for the 90th anniversary of St. Olaf College (Northfield, Minnesota) in 1964. The editors of the ELCA hymnal *With One Voice* (1995) asked Brokering to write this new hymn text in a similar style, to pull together themes and images of Easter.

Johnson, who was chair of the music department at St. Olaf College in 1964, composed the tune, "Earth and All Stars," for Brokering's original text.

Herbert F. Brokering was a Lutheran pastor, author, and poet. Born in Nebraska, Brokering was the son of a German American Lutheran pastor. (He was confirmed in German.) He studied at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa (B.A. in Greek); Iowa State University (M.A. in child psychology); and Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio (B.D.). He also pursued graduate study in Germany at the University of Kiel and the University of Erlangen.

Brokering served as a Lutheran pastor in Pennsylvania, New York, and Texas; worked with the Lutheran Student Association, the Lutheran World Federation, and the World Council of Churches; and taught at the Navy Chaplain's Career School in Newport, Rhode Island, at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, and at Trinity Lutheran Seminary. He led more than 100 tours to Europe, the Middle East, China, and India on behalf of justice and peace.

Brokering is remembered primarily as an author, poet, and hymn-writer. His books include *Hello Night!: Healing Thoughts for Sleepless Nights* (1973); *"I" Opener: 80 Parables* (1974); *I'm Thinking of You* (1996); *Love, Dad: Letters of Faith to My Children* (1998); *Unto Us Is Born: Christmas Conversations with the Mother of Jesus* (1999); *Cat Psalms: Prayers My Cats Have Taught Me* (2003); *Dog Psalms: Prayers My Dogs Have Taught Me* (2004); *I Will to You: Leaving a Legacy for Those You Love* (2006); *More Cat Psalms* (2008); *More Dog Psalms* (2008); and *Looking Anxiety in the Face: Wisdom for All Who Worry* (2009).

David N. Johnson was born in San Antonio, Texas and studied at the Curtis Institute of Music before serving in the U.S. Army Signal Corps/Air Corps in India, Burma, and China during the Second World War. After the war, he continued his musical studies at Trinity University in San Antonio (B.M.) and Syracuse University (M.M. and Ph.D.). He was a professor of music at Alfred University in New York, St. Olaf College, Syracuse University, and Arizona State University. He also served as organist and choir director at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Phoenix.