An abstract painting with a textured surface, featuring bold strokes of blue, red, and orange against a dark background. The composition is dynamic and expressive, with visible brushwork and splatters of paint.

LENT 2

MARCH 5, 2023

UNFINISHED

DISCOVERING GOD'S CALL
IN THE NOT YET

CALLED TO OPENNESS

*Lord's Prayer ("Our Father, in heaven, hallowed...")

p. 211

Sending

General Announcements

*Blessing

*Hymn 326

"Bless Now, O God, the Journey"

*Dismissal

A: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Solemn Postlude"

E. Thiman

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Every day of our lives we are asked or expected to be open to different things, circumstances, experiences, or people. Some are rather minor. Am I open to trying a food I've never eaten before? Some could be life changing. Am I open to considering a perspective that is different from mine? Am I open to a new job opportunity that presents itself? Am I open to forgiving someone who has harmed me? Am I open to changing my plans to accommodate another's need? Am I open to imagining that God is up to something, around which I cannot quite wrap my head? In the story of Nicodemus, we encounter an unfinished person of faith who is desperately trying to be open to understanding what God might be up to in Jesus. Amid his wondering confusion, Jesus meets him. Amid our own wondering confusion, Jesus meets us, too.

(Source: Church Anew)

Confession & Forgiveness

L: Gracious God,

**A: We confess that we fail
to be open to your vision for the world.**

**In our confusion amid all that is unfinished in our lives
we close ourselves off from
where and how your Spirit calls.**

**Forgive us,
and open our hearts and minds
so that cross-marked and Spirit-sealed,
we may live into the new life you have bestowed upon us,
for the sake of the Gospel, for the sake of the world.**

**Through Jesus Christ,
Our Saviour and Lord,
Amen**

L: God who is rich in mercy, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love has come to us in Jesus, who by his holy cross has redeemed the world. Buried with Christ by baptism into death,

Your sins are forgiven in +Jesus' name.

Cross-marked and Spirit-sealed,

You are raised to new life.

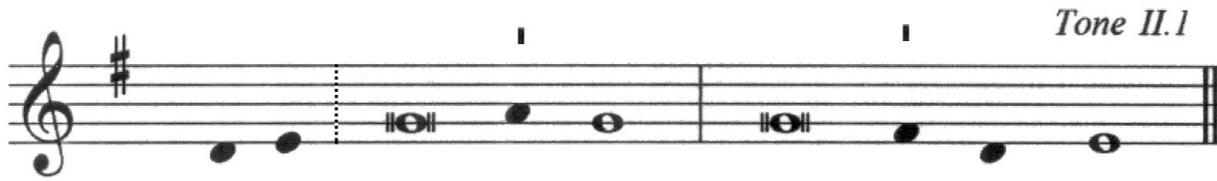
Almighty God strengthen you in faith

To live each day renewed in God's call for your life.

A: Amen

(Source: These worship resources are provided by the Nourishing Vocation Project through the Lutheran Center for Faith, Values, and Community at St. Olaf College.)

Psalm 121



¹*I lift* up my eyes to | the hills;
from where is my | help to come?

²**My help comes from | the LORD,
the maker of heav- | en and earth.**

³The LORD will not let your foot | be moved
nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.

⁴**Behold, the keeper | of Israel
will neither slum- | ber nor sleep;**

⁵the LORD watches o- | ver you;
the LORD is your shade at | your right hand;

⁶**the sun will not strike you | by day,
nor the | moon by night.**

⁷The LORD will preserve you from | all evil
and will | keep your life.

⁸**The LORD will watch over your going out and your com- | ing in,
from this time forth for- | evermore.**

Open Our Hearts

words: Mary Harvan
music: Scott Knarr

O - pen our hearts, Lord, Chi - sel your love.

The first system of music is in 3/4 time and G major. It consists of two staves: a treble staff and a bass staff. The lyrics are: "O - pen our hearts, Lord, Chi - sel your love." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final note on a long line.

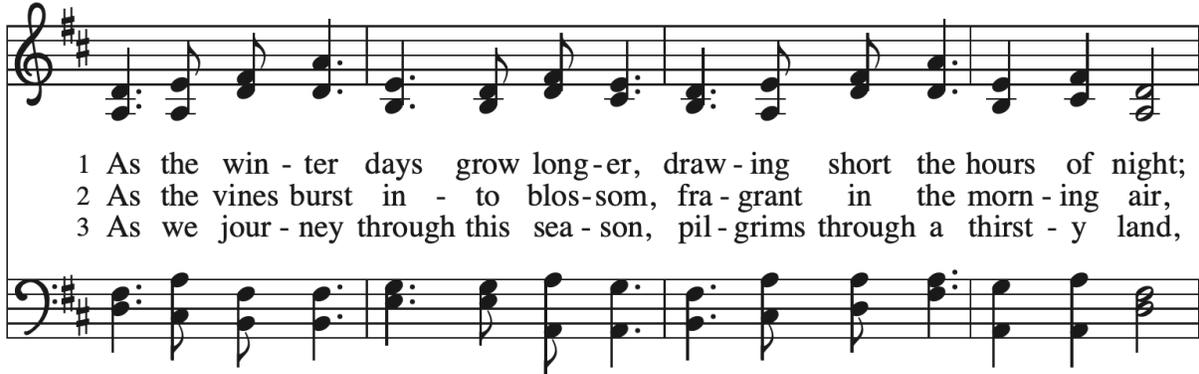
O - pen our minds, Lord, Etch your de - sign.

The second system of music is in 3/4 time and G major. It consists of two staves. The lyrics are: "O - pen our minds, Lord, Etch your de - sign." The melody continues from the first system, with a final note on a long line.

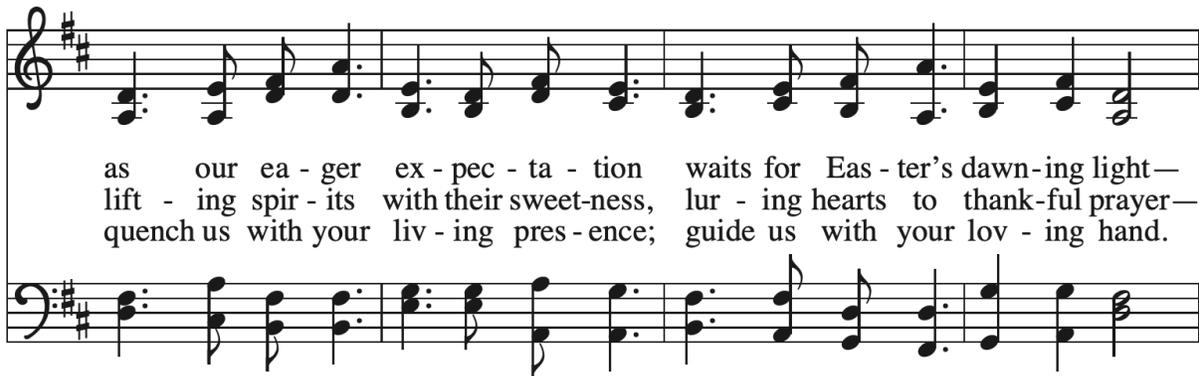
O - pen our souls, Lord, Sculpt your will.

The third system of music is in 3/4 time and G major. It consists of two staves. The lyrics are: "O - pen our souls, Lord, Sculpt your will." The melody concludes with a final chord. The time signature changes to 4/4 for the final two measures.

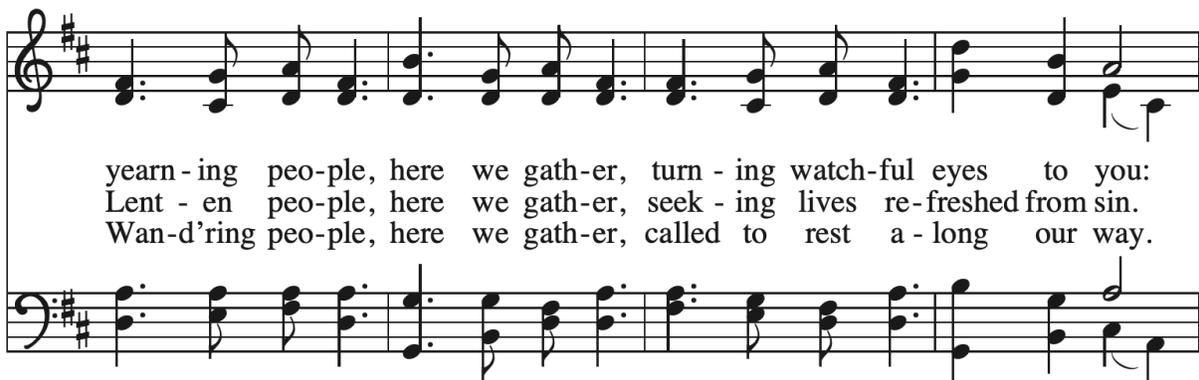
As the Winter Days Grow Longer



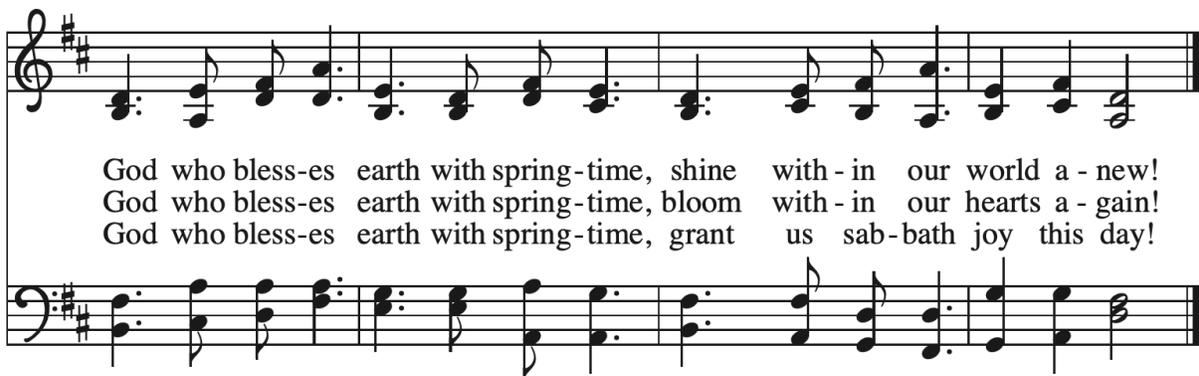
1 As the win - ter days grow long - er, draw - ing short the hours of night;
2 As the vines burst in - to blos - som, fra - grant in the morn - ing air,
3 As we jour - ney through this sea - son, pil - grims through a thirst - y land,



as our ea - ger ex - pec - ta - tion waits for Eas - ter's dawn - ing light -
lift - ing spir - its with their sweet - ness, lur - ing hearts to thank - ful prayer -
quench us with your liv - ing pres - ence; guide us with your lov - ing hand.



yearn - ing peo - ple, here we gath - er, turn - ing watch - ful eyes to you:
Lent - en peo - ple, here we gath - er, seek - ing lives re - fresh - ed from sin.
Wan - d'ring peo - ple, here we gath - er, called to rest a - long our way.



God who bless - es earth with spring - time, shine with - in our world a - new!
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, bloom with - in our hearts a - gain!
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, grant us sab - bath joy this day!

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
Music: SUO GÂN, Welsh melody; arr. hymnal version
Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.
Arr. © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

Thanksgiving for the Word

L: Holy God,
our living Water, our faithful Companion, our true Guide,
by your Word you created a world with rivers and seas, wells and
springs,
and in mercy you provided water for your people in the wilderness.
For your Word with the water of baptism, we thank you, O God.
A: We thank you, O God.

L: Gracious God, who has named and claimed us,
calling us your beloved children,
you know the secrets of our hearts.
When we sin and stray from your paths,
you astound us with your saving grace.
For this Word of life,
A: we give you thanks.

L: Loving Jesus, living Word,
in you the kingdom of God has come near;
through you all that was lost has been found.
Help us to boldly follow wherever you may lead,
trusting your promise that we need not fear,
for you are with us.
For this Word of life,
A: we give you thanks.

L: Holy Spirit, the mystery in which we dwell,
into our scarcity, your abundance flows.
Enliven all communities with your good news.
Guide us to love and serve Jesus,
giving ourselves away for the sake of the world.
For this Word of life,
A: we give you thanks.

L: All glory to you, holy God, now and forever.
A: Amen

(Source: Sunday and Seasons)

Leading Worship Today

Minister: Rev. Carey Meadows-Helmer

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Lector: Sonia Groh

Choral Scholars: Nicole Hamilton, Laura Moolenbeek, Dylan Siebert, Jacob Steinmann

Broadcast: Andrew Weber

Building Monitor: Ron Roeder (519-895-6833)

Worship Notes

In our prayers John, Marie, Grace, Maureen, Bernice, John and Nancy.

General Announcements

Lenten Midweek Soup, Recital and Holden Evening Prayer on Wednesday, March 8, 2023. Join us for a light Soup Supper at 5:30pm, Baroque Flute & Harpsichord Recital with Anthea Conway-White and Deacon Scott at 7 pm followed by Holden Evening Prayer.

West Tower Door for Emergency Only. Due to the ongoing construction planning, when going in to the church house or washrooms, use the west stair tower door and stay on that floor. Use the hallway by the office to the stairway to the floor below. The stairs in the west tower are closed to the lower level sanctuary and should only be used in case of an emergency to exit the building.

Important Information for today's worship

- **Self-Screening:** Members are reminded to continue to perform self-assessments if they have COVID symptoms.
- **Masks:** We support people's choice to wear a mask, and we strongly encourage the following of current guidelines.
- **Physical distancing:** Members are encouraged to continue physical distancing where possible indoors.
- **Offering:** Please place your offering in one of the offering plates in the Narthex (entranceway) upon entering. The offering plates will be presented to the High Altar during the service.
- **The Peace:** We support people's choices for passing of the peace.
- **Exiting:** At the end of the service, please remain in place until the end of the postlude.
- **Ministers** will be greeting worshippers after the postlude in the Narthex, without handshakes.
- **Thank you for helping to keep all of us as safe as possible during this pandemic, by following these directions!**



Fire Exits: All Sanctuary fire exits remain operational during lower-level demolition and renovations. This includes the three Narthex (Entrance) doors, the mid-tower door (half-way up the right side), and the staircase at the front left, piano side.

Church Fire Plan For everyone's awareness, a copy of the Church Fire Plan for safe exit from the Sanctuary appears in the back of the worship books. Please take a moment to review for your own safety.

Contact Information

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