

Sunday, June 26, 2022 – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

LINKS TO BENNETT'S PLAYLISTS ON SPOTIFY

Prelude: <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/6RjzpbK4rZJSXTYm2UH8>

Postlude: <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/OiFAY3kfORhZlITLjOskWY>

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 recently published 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 fell in love with music at an early age. He 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.

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 as a conductor with the Broadway tour of *The Phantom of the Opera*. Olympic gold medal-winning figure skater Brian Boitano asked him to arrange what was to become his then signature piece, “Shenandoah/They Call the Wind Maria.”

Returning to Minneapolis, Lohman spent 16 years 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 mainline Protestant denomination.

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.

Lohman included his own recording of the hymn on his 2018 album *Fling the Church Doors Open Wide: Songs of Radical Welcome*.

PSALM: Psalm 16: "The Path of Life"

by Scott Soper

*You will show me the path of life,
the delights that await me in your presence.
Without you there is nothing;
no joy can be complete
until at last I sit by your side.*

*O God, you are my refuge,
do not turn me away;
I say, "You are my God."
Without you there can be no good.*

*I bless you, God, who guides me,
even in my sleep;
my face is turned to you.
With you here at my side I shall stand firm.*

*My heart exults, my spirit sings,
even my body trusts in you;
for you will not abandon my soul to death,
nor let me sink into the grave.*

"The Path of Life" is a contemporary setting of Psalm 16 by Scott Soper (born 1961), first published in 1991.

Scott Soper was born in Maine and studied music at Ithaca College in New York. After graduating, he spent several years teaching in public and Catholic schools in New England.

Involved in church music since his teen years, Soper has served as director of music at Catholic parishes in Indiana, Illinois, Connecticut, and Maine. A talented instrumentalist, Soper plays piano, organ, guitar, clarinet, saxophone, flute, oboe, and recorder. He has performed in concert and in the studio with many Catholic artists such as Marty Haugen, Michael Joncas, Jeanne Cotter, Bobby Fisher, and Bob Hurd.

After many years in Indianapolis, Soper now lives in Portland, Oregon, where he is music development coordinator for OCP (Oregon Catholic Press).

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Spirit, Open My Heart”

by Ruth Duck and Alfred Fedak

*Spirit, open my heart
to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
in receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open my heart.*

*God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that’s kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear
to your grace I now surrender.*

*Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed,
may my living bring you glory.*

*May I weep with those who weep;
share the joy of friend and neighbor.
As I live from day to day,
love will be my finest labor.*

“**Spirit, Open My Heart**” is a contemporary hymn by Ruth C. Duck (born 1947) first published in 1996. It is set to the traditional Irish tune “Wild Mountain Thyme,” adapted by Alfred V. Fedak (born 1953) and first published in 2011.

Text and tune were reprinted in the ELCA’s 2020 supplemental hymnal *All Creation Sings* (ACS 1043).

Ruth Carolyn Duck was born in Washington, DC. She earned her B.A. in 1969 from Southwestern at Memphis University (renamed Rhodes College in 1984). She completed an M.Div. from Chicago Theological Seminary in 1973, an M.A. from the University of Notre Dame in 1987, and a doctorate in theology and liturgy from Boston University in 1989.

Duck was ordained in 1974 as a minister in the United Church of Christ (UCC). From 1974 to 1989, she served as a pastor at UCC parishes in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Massachusetts. From 1989 until her retirement in 2016, Duck was a professor of worship at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois, where her teaching interests included congregational song, healing and reconciliation, and worship and the arts.

Early in her career, Duck noticed that the language used in worship resources and hymnals to name God was, almost exclusively, masculine. This inspired her to produce two inclusive language worship resources, *Bread for the Journey: Resources for Worship* and *Everflowing Streams: Songs for Worship*, both published in 1981. Since then, Duck has written many new hymns (texts and tunes), which have appeared in denominational hymnals in the last 40 years.

Alfred Fedak was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey, and graduated from Hope College (Holland, Michigan) in 1975 with majors in organ performance and music history. He then earned a master’s degree in organ performance from Montclair State University (Montclair, New Jersey), and has done additional study at Westminster Choir College (church music), Eastman School of Music (harpsichord), the Institute for European Studies in Vienna, Austria (music history), and Clare College, Cambridge, England (at the first Cambridge choral studies seminar).

Fedak has served as organist and choir director for several churches and synagogues. Currently, he is minister of music at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Capitol Hill in Albany, New York. He also serves as chapel organist at Emma Willard School in Troy, New York, and is a member of the committee preparing a new hymnal for the Presbyterian Church.

Fedak has published more than 200 choral and organ compositions, and his hymn tunes have been published in many recent hymnals around the world.

SANCTUS: "Santo, santo, santo / Holy, holy, holy"
from "Holy Communion Setting 11" in *All Creation Sings*

Holy, holy, holy
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of our God.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

"Holy Communion Setting 11" is a new, bilingual (Spanish and English) setting of the service music for Lutheran worship. It is one of two new settings published in the ELCA's 2020 supplemental hymnal *All Creation Sings*.

(The ELCA's 2006 hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, has 10 settings of Holy Communion, so *All Creation Sings* begins with Setting 11.)

The **Sanctus**, "Santo, santo, santo / Holy, holy, holy" (ACS S705), was composed by William Loperena.

LAMB OF GOD: "Cordero de Dios / O Lamb of God"
from "Holy Communion Setting 11" in *All Creation Sings*

O Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy upon us;
have mercy upon us.
Grant us your peace. Amen.

"**Holy Communion Setting 11**" is a new, bilingual (Spanish and English) setting of the service music for Lutheran worship. It is one of two new settings published in the ELCA's 2020 supplemental hymnal *All Creation Sings*.

(The ELCA's 2006 hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, has 10 settings of Holy Communion, so *All Creation Sings* begins with Setting 11.)

The **Communion Song**, "Cordero de Dios / O Lamb of God" (ACS S706), was composed by Rudy Espinoza.

COMMUNION HYMN: “Beloved, God’s Chosen”

by Susan Palo Cherwien and Marty Haugen

*Beloved, God’s chosen, put on as a garment
compassion, forgiveness, and goodness of heart.
Above all, before all, let love be your raiment
that binds into one ev’ry dissonant part.*

*Within, call forth Wisdom, to dwell in you richly;
let peace rule your hearts and that peace be of Christ.
And from the heart’s chamber, beloved and holy,
let singing thanksgiving to God ever rise.*

*Beloved, God’s chosen, put on as a garment
compassion, forgiveness, and goodness of heart.
Above all, before all, let love be your raiment
that binds into one ev’ry dissonant part.*

“Beloved, God’s Chosen” is a contemporary hymn with text by Susan Palo Cherwien (1953–2021) and tune by Marty Haugen (born 1950).

Cherwien wrote the text (based on Colossians 3:12–16) in 1994 in response to a commission from First Lutheran Church, Freeport, Illinois, to honor Twila K. Schock on the occasion of the rededication of the church’s pipe organ.

Cherwien’s text has been set to several tunes, including “St. Catherine’s Court” by Richard Strutt, first published in 1925 (reprinted in the ELCA’s 2003 supplemental hymnal *Renewing Worship 5: New Hymns and Songs*; see R218); and “Andrew’s Song” by Robert A. Hobby, first published in 1997 (reprinted in the ELCA’s 2006 hymnal *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*; see ELW 648).

The tune we are singing today is “Michelle” by Marty Haugen, first published by GIA in 2010. Haugen composed the tune for Joshua Spitzack and Melissa Anderson; it was sung on their wedding day, June 15, 2007. Haugen later recorded the hymn for his 2010 album *Arise, My Love: Music for Weddings*.

Susan Palo Cherwien was born in Ashtabula, Ohio and studied voice (soprano) at Wittenberg University, an ELCA-affiliated college in Springfield, Ohio (B.M. in church music), and Mundelein College in Chicago, Illinois (M.A. in music).

During her junior year abroad, she studied at the Spandau School of Church Music in Berlin, Germany. Following college, she returned to Germany to study voice at the Berlin University of the Arts. She worked in opera for several years in Germany before returning to the United States.

In later life, she became an author, eventually publishing six books of poetry, theological reflections, and hymn texts. Many of her texts have been published in recent hymnals, including “O Blessed Spring,” “Day of Arising,” “As the Dark Awaits the Dawn,” “Come, Beloved of the Maker,” “Rise, O Church, Like Christ Arisen,” “Beloved, God’s Chosen,” and “In Deepest Night.”

Susan Palo Cherwien died at age 67 on December 28, 2021 from cancer (metastatic uterine sarcoma). She is survived by her husband, organist and composer David Cherwien (born 1957), who is cantor (director of music) at Mount Olive Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Minneapolis (where organist and composer Paul Manz previously served as cantor) and artistic director of the National Lutheran Choir; and their children and grandchildren.

Marty Haugen was born in Minnesota and raised in the American Lutheran Church (ALC), one of the predecessor churches of the ELCA. He earned a B.A. in psychology from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa and an M.A. in pastoral studies from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota.

For more than 40 years, Haugen has been a full-time liturgical composer. He is currently composer in residence at Mayflower United Church of Christ in Minneapolis.

Haugen has written several liturgies that are well-known in Lutheran circles, including *Now the Feast and Celebration*, written in 1990 with Dan Erlander, Susan Briehl, and Martin Wells when they were campus pastors at Pacific Lutheran University; *Unfailing Light*, an evening communion service written in 2004 with Susan Briehl; *Holy Communion Setting Two for Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (the ELCA’s 2006 hymnal); and *Holden Evening Prayer*, written in the winter of 1986, when Haugen was composer in residence at Holden Village, a Lutheran retreat center in the Cascade Mountains near Chelan, Washington.

Haugen has also composed and recorded many collections of liturgical music. His compositions have been enormously popular in the post-Vatican II Catholic Church. His *Mass of Creation* has become one of the most widely used settings of the mass throughout the English-speaking world. He also served on the editorial team for the Roman Catholic hymnal *Gather*.

SENDING HYMN: "Lead Me, Guide Me"

by Doris Akers

*Lead me, guide me, along the way;
for if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Oh, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.*

*I am weak and I need your strength and power
to help me over my weakest hour.
Help me through the shadows your face to see.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.*

*Help me tread in the paths of righteousness;
be my aid when evil and sin oppress.
I am putting all of my trust in thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.*

*I am lost if you take your hand from me.
I'm alone without your light to see.
Oh, just always let me your servant be.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.*

"Lead Me, Guide Me" is one of the best-known gospel hymns by Doris Akers (1923–1995), a legendary African American gospel songwriter with Methodist roots. She wrote this hymn in 1953 in Oakland, California. It has since been published in numerous hymnals and recorded by many artists (including Elvis Presley, who released his cover in 1972).

Doris Mae Akers was born in Brookfield, Missouri. One of 10 children of Floyd and Pearl Akers, she learned to play the piano by ear at the age of 6, composed her first gospel song at the age of 10, and organized her first band (with her siblings, Edward, Marian, and Donald, who went by the name of "Dot and The Swingsters") by the time she was 12.

In 1945, at the age of 22, Akers moved to Los Angeles. She was recruited by Sallie Martin in 1946 as a pianist and vocalist for The Sallie Martin Singers. Martin was famous for touring nationally with Thomas Dorsey to sell gospel sheet music, and this collaboration early in her career gave Akers insights into the business side of the music industry.

Two years later, in 1948, Akers left The Sallie Martin Singers and teamed up with Dorothy Simmons and Hattie Hawkins to form their own group, the Simmons-Akers Trio. They released many recordings on several labels.

Akers also began recording her own original compositions as a solo artist and founded her own publishing house to sell them.

In 1958, Akers became the choir director for the Sky Pilot Radio Church, one of the first racially integrated choirs in Los Angeles. The choir was featured on recordings, television shows, and radio broadcasts across the nation. Her fresh, modern arrangements of traditional African American spirituals drew large crowds to the church and established her reputation as part of the first generation of African American gospel musicians.

After many years living in Los Angeles, Akers moved to Columbus, Ohio in 1970. She continued recording, composing, and traveling in the 1970s and 1980s, releasing a new gospel album every year. In the 1990s, she moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she served as Minister of Music at Grace Temple Deliverance Center. She discovered she had spinal cancer in August 1994, and died in Minneapolis on July 26, 1995.

Akers was honored by the Smithsonian Institution in 1992 as "the foremost black gospel songwriter in the United States." In 2001, Akers was inducted posthumously into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame, and in 2011 she was inducted into the Southern Gospel Music Hall of Fame.