

In Music There is Hope—A SERVICE OF MUSIC AND READINGS

Sept. 20, 2020

PRELUDE—Emily

When in Our Music God is Glorified—var. 1

Kyle Johnson

CALL TO HOPE

JENNIFER

We are calling each other to the inner work of HOPE this morning. In song, prayer, readings, meditations, we remind each other to sustain the candle of hope within ourselves. We ask you to join us in this spiritual journey. We begin with Emily Dickinson's original poem "*Hope is the thing with feathers*".

"Hope" is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all -

And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -
And sore must be the storm -
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm -

I've heard it in the chilliest land -
And on the strangest Sea -
Yet - never - in Extremity,
It asked a crumb - of me.

An die Musik—Franz Schubert

Neal Long, tenor

Beloved art, in how many a bleak hour,

when I am enmeshed in life's tumultuous round,
have you kindled my heart to the warmth of love,
and borne me away to a better world!

Often a sigh, escaping from your harp,
a sweet, celestial chord
has revealed to me a heaven of happier times.
Beloved art, for this I thank you!

READING

JOSH

A sermon quote by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.....We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today.

EMMA

We are confronted by the fierce urgency of now.

JENNIFER

So let us begin. Now let us rededicate ourselves to the long and bitter – but beautiful – struggle for a new world.

NEAL

This is the calling of the children of God, and our brothers and sisters wait eagerly for our response.

EMMA

Shall we say the odds are too great?

NEAL

Shall we tell them the struggle is too hard?

JENNIFER

Will our message be that the forces of American life militate against our arrival as full persons, and we send our deepest regrets?

JOSH

Or will there be another message, of longing, of hope, of solidarity with their yearnings, of commitment to their cause, whatever the cost?

ALL

The choice is ours, and though we might prefer it otherwise we must choose in this crucial moment of human history.

MUSIC BY QUARTET

#772 Live into Hope

READING (Jennifer and Emma)

EMMA

I Rise—by Maya Angelou

You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

JENNIFER

Does my sassiness upset you?
Why are you beset with gloom?
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
Pumping in my living room.
Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise.

EMMA

Did you want to see me broken?
Bowed head and lowered eyes?
Shoulders falling down like teardrops,
Weakened by my soulful cries?

JENNIFER

Does my haughtiness offend you?
Don't you take it awful hard
'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines
Diggin' in my own backyard.

EMMA

You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness,
But still, like air, I'll rise.

JENNIFER

Does my sexiness upset you?
Does it come as a surprise
That I dance like I've got diamonds
At the meeting of my thighs?

EMMA

Out of the huts of history's shame

JENNIFER

I rise

EMMA

Up from a past that's rooted in pain

JENNIFER

I rise.

EMMA

I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.

JENNIFER

Leaving behind nights of terror and fear

EMMA

I rise

JENNIFER

Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear

EMMA

I rise

JENNIFER

Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,

EMMA

I am the dream and the hope of the slave.

JENNIFER AND EMMA

I rise
I rise
I rise.

MUSIC BY QUARTET

#353 Glory to God My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

READING (NEAL and JOSH)

JOSH

Brief Meditations by Vaclav Havel—Czech Prime Minister, Writer, Statesman....Hope is not a feeling of certainty that everything ends well. Hope is just a feeling that life and work have a meaning.

NEAL

Vision is not enough, it must be combined with venture. It is not enough to stare up the steps, we must step up the stairs.

JOSH

Hope is the deep orientation of the human soul that can be held at the darkest times.

NEAL

The only thing I can recommend at this stage is a sense of humor, an ability to see things in their ridiculous and absurd dimensions, to laugh at others and at ourselves, a sense of irony regarding everything that calls out for parody in this world. In other words, I can only recommend perspective and distance.

JOSH

The kind of hope that I often think about...I understand above all as a state of mind, not a state of the world. Either we have hope within us, or we don't. It is a

dimension of the soul It's not essentially dependent upon some particular observation of the world or estimate of the situation.

NEAL

Hope is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out."

MUSIC BY QUARTET

Anthem: Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel?

Patti Drennan

Bible Readings--JOSH

Psalm 121 Romans 5:1-5 Romans 12:12 Romans 15:13
Luke 4:14-19 Matthew 12:17-21

MUSIC BY QUARTET

Anthem Music Never Dies Alfred Fedak

TIME FOR PRAYER.....Deanna introduces by inviting people to submit their prayer requests while NEAL PLAYS NATIVE FLUTE. Deanna cues Neal that prayer time is over and Neal comes to a cadence.....Deanna starts Lord's Prayer

Our Father.....who art in heaven,
hallowed be 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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors;

and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom
 and the power
 and the glory, forever. Amen

Deanna: Let us prepare for our time of morning offering. Here are the ways to give.....

OFFERTORY

Solo—What a Wonderful World
 Jennifer Weiman, mezzo soprano

PRAYER OF DEDICATION—EMMA

**May all beings everywhere
 plagued with sufferings of body and mind
 quickly be freed from their illnesses.
 May those frightened cease to be afraid,
 and may those bound be free.
 May the powerless find power,
 and may people think of befriending one another.
 May those who find themselves
 in trackless, fearful wilderness---
 the children,
 the aged,
 the unprotected--
 be guarded now and always.
 Amen.**

--Buddhist prayer

MUSIC BY QUARTET

#821 Glory to God How Can I Keep from Singing

BLESSING—Jennifer

Hope!

Hope in the face of difficulty.
Hope in the face of uncertainty.
The audacity of hope!
In the end,
that is God's greatest gift to us...
A belief in things not seen.
A belief that there are better days ahead.
Amen.

President Barack Obama

SUNG RESPONSE

#498 Worship and Rejoice Lead Me, Guide Me, (all stanzas)

POSTLUDE

When in Our Music God is Glorified, var. 3—Kyle Johnson