

15
New Poems
in
Song

Unitarian Universalist Views
of
The Seasons
Special Services
The Seven Principles

for
Gatherings, Soloists and Choirs



by
The Hymn Writers
of the
First and Second Church in Boston

John Burt, Leader
Original Tunes by Leo Collins

15 New Poems in Song

is Sincerely Dedicated to
an Exemplar of Lay Leadership, James Higginson Jackson,
to the Music Committee Chairs who followed,
Thomas Risser, Carol Gilbert, Linda Lu Schulz, Rosemary Kean,
and to all the lovers of poetry and music in this Congregation.

The Congregation's Service Responsibility

From the time of the Reformation, Protestant congregations have been given a responsibility for leading a portion of the religious service, namely, the singing of psalms, hymns and spiritual songs: the congregation's moment to lead the service. In the place of priests, lay people 'carry' the service by raising *their* voices in expressive statements of faith and belief through these musical forms.

New England Puritans, in their Bay Psalm Book of 1640, stated that the *requirement* of "singing scripture psalms" in the Sabbath Day gatherings was a "heavenly Ordinance".

15 New Poems is offered for the direct experience of this aesthetic dimension in religious life, in the belief that the joining of poetic and musical arts with the life of the spirit can give vibrant expression to religious conviction: the singing congregation as the 'voice of the church.'

The Hymn Writers

Meeting since 1992, members and friends of the Church have joined with poet John Burt and composer/editor Leo Collins to give poetic and musical expression to Unitarian Universalist themes, from the *Flower Communion* to sung poetry based upon the seven covenanted Principles of Unitarian Universalism.

Beverly Allen, Barbara & Stephen Anthony, Peter Banos, Lee Bluemel,
Westin Boer, Shuma Chakravarty, Joan Collins, Mary Collins, Paul Condon, Brad Cullin,
Yvonne Egdahl, Ann Fox, Christine Gainer, David Horst, Doris Hunter,
James H Jackson, Walter Jonas, Elizabeth & Stephen Kendrick,
Karen Larson, Lorna Lynch, Rosemary Mackown, Jane McKinnell,
Branden Miller, Elizabeth Rackemann, Anna & David Reno, George S Richardson,
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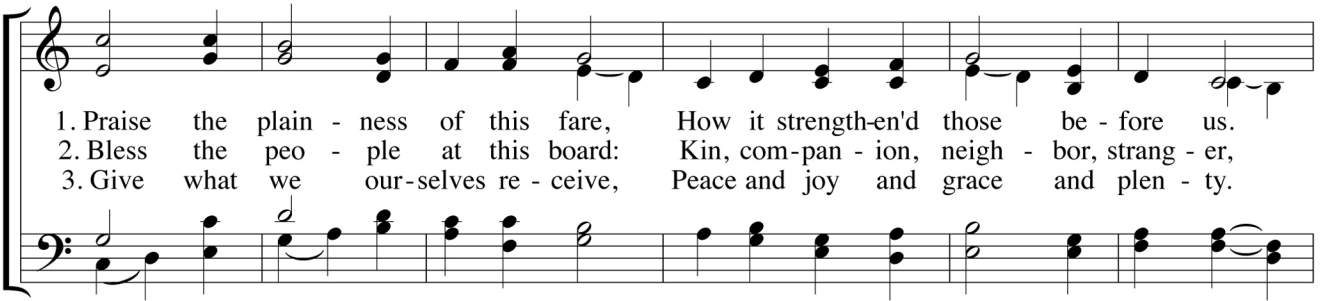
Leo Collins, Editor
First & Second Church in Boston
Boston, Massachusetts
August, 2002

Praise the Plainness of this Fare

Thanks Unending

$\text{♩} = 72$

Women



1. Praise the plain - ness of this fare, How it strength-en'd those be - fore us.
2. Bless the peo - ple at this board: Kin, com-pan - ion, neigh - bor, strang - er,
3. Give what we our-selves re - ceive, Peace and joy and grace and plen - ty.

Men



Bore them up thru' toil and care, While they built a fu - ture for us.
All the com - pa - ny of God Ren - der thanks to their Sus - tain - er.
Pass these on - ward when we leave, More will fol - low, more and man - y.

All



Now their grace be - comes our pray'r; Feel their spir - its watch - ing o'er us.
Strength - en those who wan - der wide, Keep their pathways free of dan - ger.
Love each oth - er with our love O - ver-flow-ing, nev - er end - ing.

A Prayer at the Thanksgiving Table

As Wild Winds Tear the Bitter Air

A Baby Cries

$\text{♩} = 72$

Men 1. As wild winds tear The bit - ter air, How
Women 2. Is this a king, This help - less thing, Who
3. The par - ents' gaze Is pray'r and praise. He
4. A ba - by cries. Oh earth, a - rise! Let

anx - ious - ly the watch they keep. One fee - ble light Holds
strug - gles for his ev' - ry breath? Is Ma - ry's son The
gaz - es back to them a - bove. This ti - ny face Calls
love of God ring out, shine through, Un - til we share All

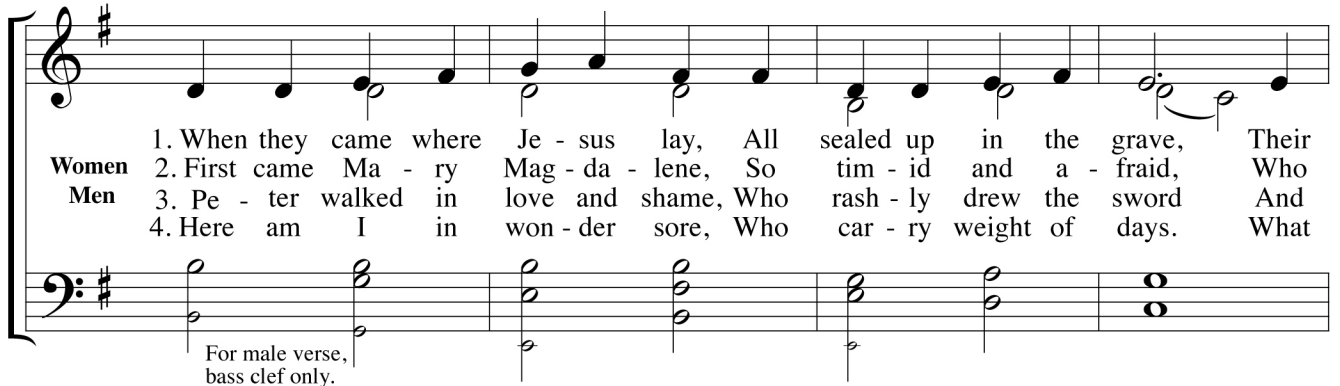
back the night, And flick - ers o'er the ba - by's sleep.
prom - is'd one? Can he have pow - er ov - er death?
us to grace, And teach - es love by need - ing love.
mor - tal care And bind our bro - ken world a - new.

Christmastide

When they came where Jesus lay

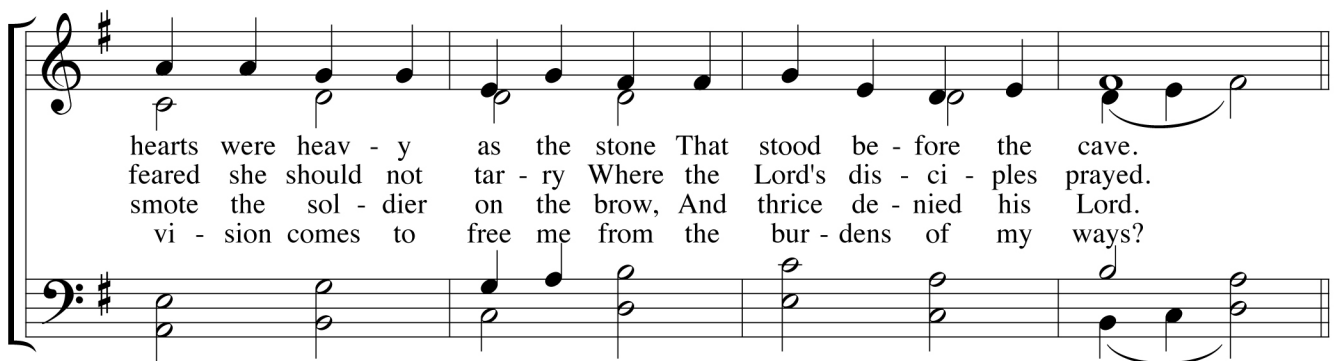
Angels, Roll that Rock Away!

$\text{♩} = 66$



1. When they came where Je - sus lay, All sealed up in the grave, Their
Women 2. First came Ma - ry Mag - da - lene, So tim - id and a - fraid, Who
Men 3. Pe - ter walked in love and shame, Who rash - ly drew the sword And
4. Here am I in won - der sore, Who car - ry weight of days. What

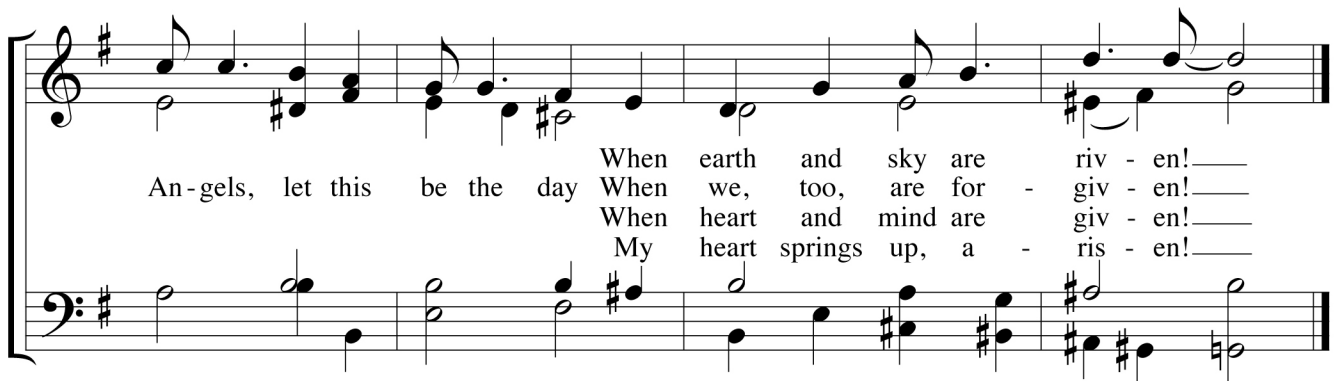
For male verse,
bass clef only.



hearts were heav - y as the stone That stood be - fore the cave.
feared she should not tar - ry Where the Lord's dis - ci - ples prayed.
smote the sol - dier on the brow, And thrice de - nied his Lord.
vi - sion comes to free me from the bur - dens of my ways?



All
An - gels, roll that rock a - way! An - gels, shout to heav - en!—



An - gels, let this be the day When earth and sky are riv - en!—
When we, too, are for - giv - en!—
When heart and mind are giv - en!—
My heart springs up, a - ris - en!—

A Flower in the Wayside Blows

Gifts of Grace

♩ = 80

1. A flow - er in the way - side blows for none at all, for all. A
2. To - day we bring these gifts of grace To share with one, with all. Their
3. Like sum - mer blooms sown far and wide, So free is love to all; For

ran - dom trav' - ller takes a rose; Its ac - ci - den - tal call — a - wakes a
beau - ty shines on ev' - ry face; And si - lent - ly they call — The hid - den
high and low on ev' - ry side Who takes to heart that call — Takes up the

glad - ness in the heart. It gath - ers un - a - ware the
love from ev' - ry soul. It blos - soms pure and clear, It
gift to give a - gain. This love that we must share: This

bound - less grace on na - ture's part, Un - fold - ing ev' - ry - where.
makes our life and spir - it whole, Un - fold ing ev' - ry - where.
grace of God that lives with - in, Un - fold - ing ev' - ry - where.

Flower Communion

To Draw the Sweet Air in

$\text{♩} = 60$

1. To draw the sweet air in is praise. The
 2. We reach for hands that reach in turn, And
 3. And ov - er - head the wake - ful stars Keep

sharp rush of the breath
 touch - ing on form a bond
 watch on all we do

Quick - ens in the hymn we raise, And
 Hearts we yearn for al - so yearn To -
 God, the love we spread a - far We

soars past time, past death.
 geth - er and be - yond.
 gath - er'd first from you.

Quiet Praise

Deeply we Drink

Verse ♩ = 120-126

mf

1. Deep - ly we drink of the lies of the day;
 2. Man - y we fright - en, yet man - y we fear;
 3. Put down our arms, if we on - ly knew how!

Bit - ter the taste when mix'd with the true.
 That much we know, but don't know it all.
 Swift is the fall, but slow is the climb.

Faith is the spring that will wash lies a - way.
 Don't know how hope from dis - as - ter springs clear.
 Death is for - ev - er, but love on - ly now.

Taste it: we share it with you!
 Hear it: the voice still and small!
 Feel it: there is - n't much time! *rall.*

Chorus

f
a tempo

Let faith ga - ther us near, Let hope a - mong us ap - pear,

Let love cast out all the fear Now and here.
rall. *a tempo*

Blaze from the Coals

$\text{♩} = 80$

1. Blaze from the coals with new wrought flame!
2. Called as we are truth, to strive and seek,
3. Wake to the truth, till now un - heard.

Burst from the clod and seek the sun.
Grasp hands all 'round, com - plete the ring.
Wake to this world, all yours, all mine.

All life un - furls and rends the frame,
Let tu - mult sound, let stern rocks speak
All eyes are seers, all speech the word,

Stop - less and strange, and nev - er done.
Till the a - byss re - sound and sing!
All flesh are saints, all deeds di - vine.

Repeat Verse 1

Inspired by Ralph Waldo Emerson

'Tis a Gift to be Joyous

$\text{♩} = 54$

F FMaj6

1. 'Tis a gift to be joy - ous, 'tis a gift makes us sing, 'Tis a
 2. 'Tis a gift to be hon - est, 'tis a gift makes you free, 'Tis a
 3. 'Tis a gift to be lov - ing, 'tis a gift makes you true, 'Tis a

gmin6 C F C

gift of spir - it bright - ens ev - 'ry - thing; It o - pens up the heart in a
 gift that takes you where you want to be. For when we find our - selves with a
 gift to care in all you have to do, For then we find our - selves with a

F B \flat $\overset{a}{\cdot}$ gmin6 C F

way just right To live in the val - ley of love and de - light.
 truth so right, 'Twill be in a gar - den of love and de - light.
 peace so right As lives in the val - ley of love and de - light.

F

When sim - ple joy - ous - ness is gain'd, To sing and to dance we
 When sim - ple hon - es - ty is gain'd, To do and to be we
 When sim - ple char - i - ty is gain'd, To speak and to act we

gmin6 C F

shan't be a - sham'd, For joy, joy will be our de - light Till by
 shan't be a - sham'd, For truth, truth will be our de - light Till by
 shan't be a - sham'd, For love, love will be our de - light Till by

gmin6 C7 F B \flat F

joy - ous sing - ing we come round right.
 truth - ful do - ing we come round right.
 tru - ly lov - ing we come round right.

The Simple Gifts of Joy, Truth and Love

Accompaniment: Autoharp, Guitar or Piano

We are but Dust

♩ = 88.92

1) We are but dust, but dust of stars, _____ a piece of
 2) I am but one, but one with all, _____ and you un -
 3) All are but fools, but heav - en's fools, _____ no mat - ter

earth on which God blew, and woke the sim - ple hu - man soul that
 known are my true kin. Al - tho' our ways be far a - part, the
 what the wrong, the shame. We all are treas - ure in God's sight who

lov'd the world it wak - en'd to. No star God placed and set to
 self - same star - dust burns with - in. The self - same heav - en gave us
 loves the stayed, the strayed the same. If all are held in this em -

blaze _____ shone bright - er than that wond' - ring gaze.
 birth, _____ and makes us e - quals on this earth.
 brace, _____ how sim - ple then to share that _____ grace.

1, 2
 3

Unitarian Universalist Principle I
*The inherent worth and dignity
 of every person.*

Who Holds the Scales

$\text{♩} = 76$

1. That one who holds the scales is blind; She
2. We raise our-selves in fool-ish pride, We
3. Come near, O search-er of each heart, Make

weighs our hurt, our heart, our mind. While
rush and brush the crowd a - side. Stop
whole what we have torn a - part. We

we who see a - vert the eye, She hears each faint and fee-ble
now and look them in the eyes: They're kin we did not re - cog -
see now for each oth - er's sake That jus - tice must be love a -

cry. She sum - mons us to clear - er
nize. Let's see our com - mon need to
wake. We come as one to you to -

sight, Then leads us back to truth and right.
draw This cov - e - nant of love and law.
day: Make sure the ba - lance of our way.

Unitarian Universalist Principle II
*Justice, Equity and Compassion in Human
Relations*

Let's Grow a Rainbow 'round the Earth!

$\text{♩} = 66-72$

Women
Men

1. Let's grow a rain - bow 'round the earth, in ev' - ry
 2. Let's har - vest bright red, yel - low swirls to dance an
 3. Let's hum a cool blues' mel - low verse in peace of

sea - son of the year. We'll ra - di - ate and prize the
 au - tumn car - ni - val. A tem - po stok'd by spir - it's
 win - ter's qui - et rest; groov - ing in time, re - flect - ing

good we find in sis - ter / broth - er - hood.
 bliss will whirl us in - to o - pen - ness.
 life, pre - par - ing plans to set - tle strife.

Let's grow a rain - bow 'round the earth!

4. Let's weave a wreath, green with the mirth
 of primavera love in bloom.
 This arc will flow'r, belief will spring,
 when hand in hand our joys we sing.
 Let's grow a rainbow 'round the earth!

5. Let's bring a warm gold, glowing faith
 as sun and rain bring summer grace;
 give this celestial nimbus birth
 from heartfelt sense of each one's worth.
 Let's grow a rainbow 'round the earth!

Unitarian Universalist Principle III
*Acceptance of one another,
 and encouragement to spiritual growth.*

How Did Our World Come to Be?

Taught by Wonder

$\bullet = 104$

mf
1. How did our world come to be? Was it born and did it grow?
2. What will hap - pen when we die? How long will our plan - et last?
3. If you want to un - der - stand Things that you can nev - er see,

It was born im - pro - ba - bly, Think and learn if you would know.
Fu - tures are a mys - te - ry, But no more so than the past.
Think of how the ap - ple falls: What it feels is grav - i - ty.

[Improvise modulation]

4. Those who search for what is real Not con - tent to just pre - tend,
5. Taught by won - der, learn - ing love, Love of that which holds us all,

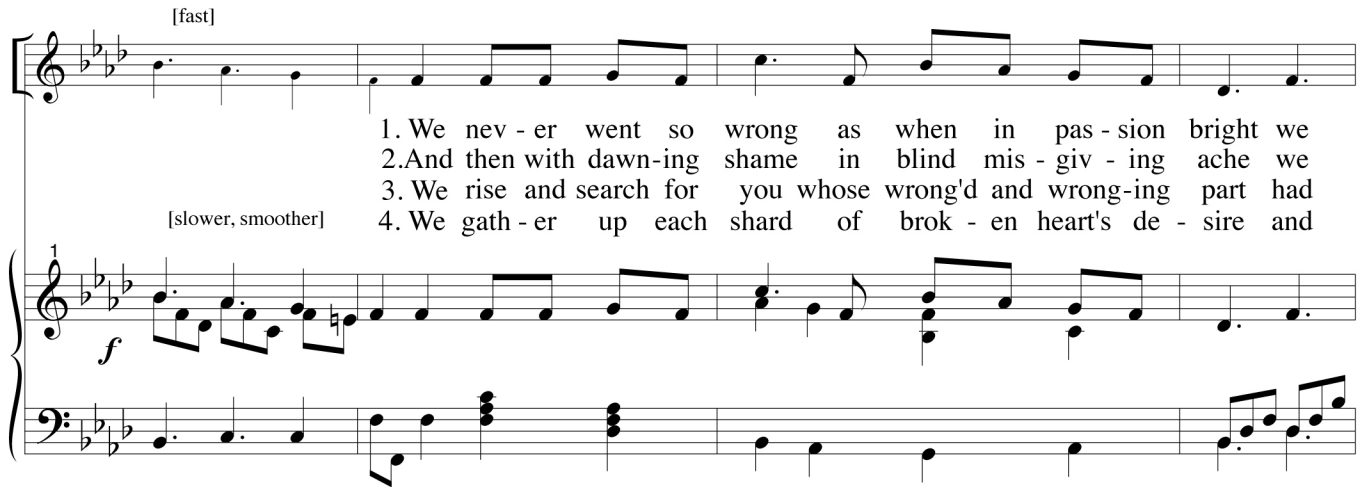
Know that what they think and feel Turns to won - der at the end.
Dear - er than a God a - bove, Hope and faith e - nough for all.

Unitarian Universalist Principle IV
*A free and responsible search
for truth and meaning*

We Never Went So Wrong

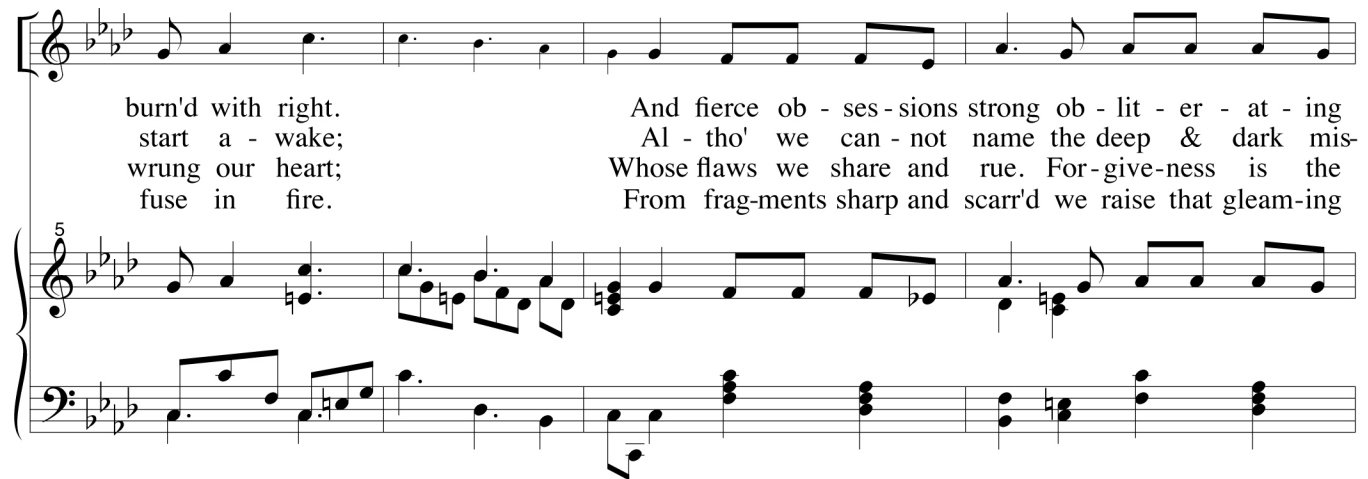
The Bite of Conscience

[fast]

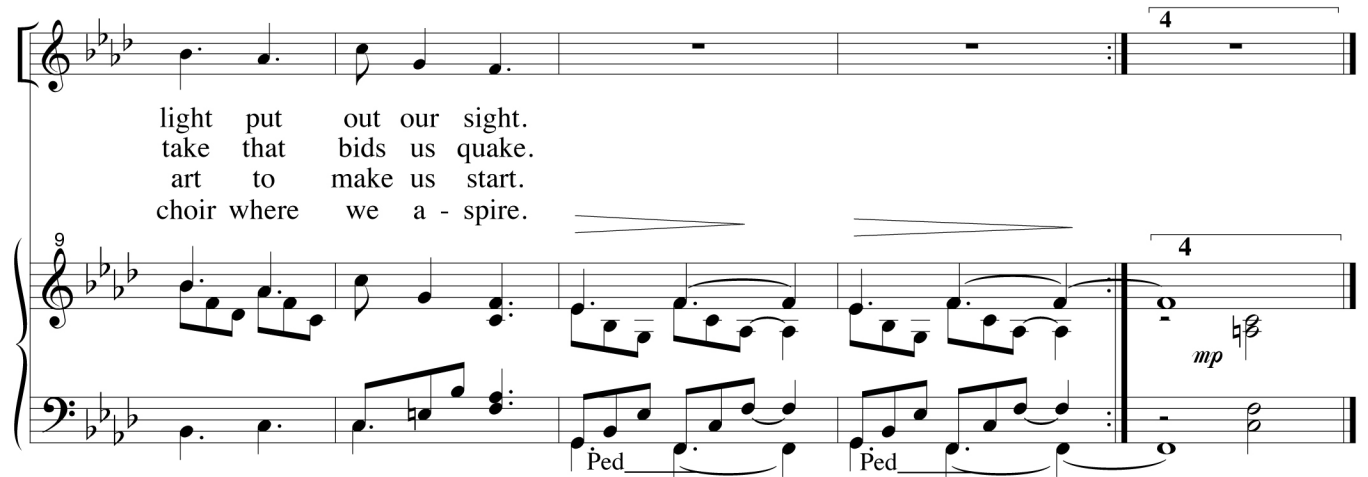


1. We nev - er went so wrong as when in pas - sion bright we
2. And then with dawn - ing shame in blind mis - giv - ing ache we
3. We rise and search for you whose wrong'd and wrong - ing part had
4. We gath - er up each shard of brok - en heart's de - sire and

[slower, smoother]



burn'd with right. And fierce ob - ses - sions strong ob - lit - er - at - ing
start a - wake; Al - tho' we can - not name the deep & dark mis -
wrung our heart; Whose flaws we share and rue. For - give - ness is the
fuse in fire. From frag - ments sharp and scarr'd we raise that gleam - ing



light put out our sight.
take that bids us quake.
art to make us start.
choir where we a - spire.

mp

Ped

Unitarian Universalist Principle V
The Right of Conscience

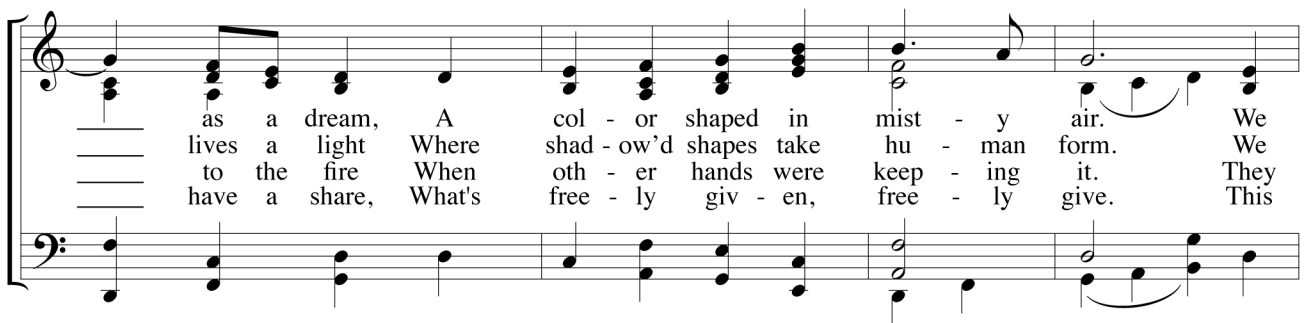
Tho' Lost and Cold

Places by the Fire

$\text{♩} = 92$




1. Tho' lost and cold, we sense the glow As dim and dis - tant—
2. The rest - less branch - es wrythe and twine, But in their shelt - er—
3. "Once we were lost in dark and cold, Then we were wel - com'd—
4. Let one and all be wel - com'd here, Let all who hun - ger—



as a dream, A col - or shaped in mist - y air. We
lives a light, Where shad - ow'd shapes take hu - man form. We
to the fire When oth - er hands were keep - ing it. They
have a share, What's free - ly giv - en, free - ly give. This



turn our fa - ces, then our feet, And make for hav - en, hope and
show our - selves, then hes - i - tate, They lead us where warm plac - es
did not ask us place or name, And so to you we do the
fire burns ev - er, if we tend, But if we fail it, it will



heat. All froz - en thru', we can - not care If those who gath - er—
wait. "Come, shel - ter here a - gainst the storm, And stay with us this—
same. Now you in turn must keep it lit When oth - ers found - er—
end. In shar - ing warmth we learn to live, We wel - come strang - ers—

Unitarian Universalist Principle VI
*World Community,
with Peace, Liberty and Justice for all*

1

at that gleam Are saint or strang - er, friend or foe.
 win - try night. Come, join the ring where
 and des - pair, You must re - new what
 with a pray'r: 'Come, dwell in peace, and

2

fac - es shine."

3

burn'd of old."

4

all re - vere.'

When Late at Night We Soar Across the Sky

A Never Ending Skein of Stars

$\text{♩} = 58$

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 58. The lyrics are arranged in four numbered stanzas. The first system includes a dynamic marking of *(p)*. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. The lyrics are: 1) When late at night we soar a - cross the bleak for - bid - ding sky, A; 2) When from our dreams we start a - wake and feel a puls - ing tide re -; 3) When I am lost in doubt and dark, and not a soul is by, I; 4) What sweeps the stars in dia - mond strands, fa - mil - iar to our eyes, And. The second system continues the lyrics: nev - er - end - ing skein of stars reels past the baf - fled eye. And; lease and tense in ev' - ry vein where blood and breath - ing ride. And; o - ver - hear you call a - loud in long - ing, "What am I?" Then; shapes from scat - ter'd sprays of light a face we rec - og - nize? What. The third system continues: far be - low the brill - iant nets of ci - ty lights sweep by. They; to the furth - est fil - a - ment come rush - ing rich and wide. How; each to each we turn and twine a spread - ing tap - es - try. We; binds this sin - ew and this blood? What sparks a soul to rise? The. The fourth system concludes the lyrics: pulse a - like with strang - est life to make a sound - less cry.; dense - ly life that swims and swirls has fold - ed us in - side.; wreath and weave this scat - ter'd world in - to a un - i - ty.; love that's wov - en in the heart un - furls to deeps and skies.

Unitarian Universalist Principle VII
The Interdependent Web of all Existence