



The Worship of God

April 12, 2026

Second Sunday of Easter | Easter Cantata

Gathering Music

“Guiding Light”

Words and Music by Edward Dwane,
Winston Marshall, Benjamin Lovett,
and Marcus Mumford

“What a Wonderful World”

Words and Music by
Bob Thiele and George Weiss

“My Beloved”

Words and Music by
Christian Mclvor ©2026

“Tell Me Something Good”

Words and Music by
Christian Mclvor ©2026

Prelude

“Psalm 23”
GBC Choir

Music by L. Eugene Oldham

Welcome

Anna Beth Cross

Invocation

Cantata

What Love Is This?
GBC Choir

Music by Lloyd Larson,
Mary McDonald, Brad Nix,
Marty Parks, and Larry Shackley

“Sing Forth His Glorious Name”

“Hiding in the Shadows”

“A Price We Can Pay”

Offertory Anthem

“Do This in Remembrance”

“Gethsemane”

“What Love Is This?”

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

“Crown Him the Lord of Life!”

Celebrating Community

Anna Beth Cross

†Sung Benediction

“Living Stones”

Words and Music
by Christian McIvor ©2020

Verse 1:

**Come! See! Let your heart be set on fire!
And go! Tell! Add your voice now to the choir!
Join us as we sound the invitation
To work to bring about a new creation!**

Pre-chorus:

**Here, we are answering our call;
Every member equipped to bring light and hope to all.**

Chorus:

**We will bring God’s reign near and in the love of Christ be led,
Doing the Word, making it heard.
And all are welcome here! Come to the table and be fed!
From near and far, come as you are.
Here, you will never be alone.
In the glory of God, we’re building a church of living stones!**

Verse 2:

**Open up your mind to transformation
That offers justice, peace, and liberation.
Growing as we honor our tradition;
Together, we’ll move forward in our mission. (Prechorus, Chorus 2x)**

Choral Postlude

“You Shall Go Out in Joy”

by Christian McIvor
and Pepper Choplin

Instrumentalists

Rosene Rohrer, Flute
Taiki Azuma, Oboe
Chrissy McIvor, Clarinet
Georgia Schmidt, Violin 1
Thomas Schmidt, Violin 2
Matt Chicurel, Viola
Michael McKnight, Cello
Pam Weis, Piano

Editor's Notes

"Love" is a word that gets bantered about in our world in so many ways. It is very easy to express our love for someone or something. But expressions mean little if there are not actions to support them. Jesus said in so many ways that He loved the people He had come to save; the people with whom He associated on a daily basis. His actions underscored His words as He redeemed, taught, held, and encouraged those whose lives He touched. That was never in doubt for those who truly knew Him.

Ultimately, Jesus sacrificed His life as the final act of love. In His own words, He had provided a glimpse of what was to come: "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13). Though His followers did not immediately grasp the impact of His death in the events of that grim day, the significance of His sacrifice was soon realized as they witnessed the living Christ in the days following the resurrection. The power of God's love that raised Jesus from the dead radically changed His closest followers and all who experienced that love through these first century witnesses. And that incomparable love continues to reverberate and change lives today centuries after Christ walked this earth.

The message of this cantata leads us along a rugged path to the cross, a symbol of Christ's sacrifice and love. But then it makes its way to an empty tomb, a symbol God's of power and triumph! [In hearing] this music, you may be reminded of the love that Jesus had for you and me even as He prayed for us on the night before his crucifixion: "I'm not praying for these alone (the disciples), but also for the future believers who will come to Me because of their testimony" (John 17:20). It is my prayer that this cantata will enable us all to gain a deeper understanding of God's great love through Jesus.

Lloyd Larson, Editor

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*With Christ as the Cornerstone, we will build a church of living stones,
where every member is a minister and is equipped to express God's love
by word and deed to all people.*

Based on 1 Peter 2:5, 6

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