

Fourth Sunday after Easter May 22, 2011

INTROIT

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELLS AND PRELUDE

OPENING SENTENCES

source: Rex A.E. Hunt

One: Spirit of life and love, we have gathered in this sacred place, again.
 May we create here a circle of love,
 ever expanding, ever growing.
 A place of wisdom.
 A place of connection.
 A place of hope.
 Amen.

*HYMN

"Song of Healing"

source: Bunessan
 words: N. Habel



*God of grief and anger,
 this is what we know:
 Even in the valley of the shadow of death,
 still we are held,
 still we are loved,
 still we are brought back to life,
 rocked so sweetly in your everlasting arms.
 God of hope against hope,
 we call on you,
 we depend on you.
 Deepen and brighten our sadness.*

<http://www.saltproject.org/salt-blog/bright-sadness.html>



Thanks to Japanese artist Hokusai for his timeless woodblock print, *The Great Wave*.

*PRAYER OF AWARENESS

One: Our world convulses;
 our planet's orbit distorts;
 a moment when the earth stretches
 changes shape;
 a few metres of seabed raised -
 and the ocean responds -
 catastrophically.

Many: **Our powerlessness inescapable,
 our spirits themselves convulse.**

One: People working -
 people playing -
 people enjoying the beauty of paradise beaches
 seeing paradise disintegrate in an inferno of water.

Many: **Our powerlessness inescapable,
 we look beyond to a spirit beyond our own for comfort.**

This Morning...

Rutter's Requiem was written in 1985. While writing John Rutter could not have known of the Tsunami in the Indian Ocean that pummeled Indonesia, the earthquakes that rocked first Haiti and then Japan, nor the tornadoes that devastated lives much closer to home.

There is, however, in all of human history a common need to lament the storm in whose face we are powerless, a need to give voice to the grief that is common to us all.

Like the music, the words in our service this morning both precede and follow particular storms, bearing witness to the timeless human need to lament.

We give thanks to our musicians who today give voice to lament... lighting a candle of hope in the darkest night.



Just a Closer Walk
Jack Schrader

*Daily walkin' close to Thee,
Let it be, Dear Lord, let it be.*

*I am weak, But Thou are strong
Jesus keep me from all wrong
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk,
Let me walk close to thee.
Just a closer walk with Thee,
Grant it, Jesus is my plea,
Daily walkin' close to Thee,
Let it be, O dear Lord, let it be.*

*Through this world of toil and snares,
If I falter; Lord who cares?
Who with my burden shares?
None but Thee, O dear Lord,
none but Thee
Just a closer walk with Thee,
Grant it, Jesus is my plea,
Daily walkin' close to Thee,
Let it be, O dear Lord, let it be.*

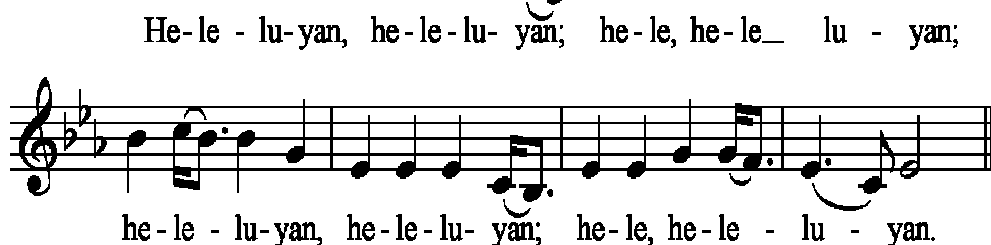
*Dear Lord walkin' close, dear Lord, close
to Thee, dear Lord, let it be: Lord, let it be!*

One: But the world has not been good -
the earth seems to have turned on humanity
sweeping away rich and poor -
young and old:
making no distinction in dealing out death.

Many: **Our powerlessness inescapable,
we rest our hope in that which is beyond our knowing.**

The query in the prayer above comes from Wellspring (© 2004)
in response to the storms in Asia;
K. Hawker penned responses for our community.

*RESPONSE "Halleluyan" source: Native American



* May be sung as a round.

READING FROM TRADITION

One: May we be struck by the wisdom of these words
and marked by hearing them.

Many: **For within story lies meaning,
and within meaning, the wisdom for which we seek.**

One: From the Prophets (Judaism and Christianity) we read:
All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The
grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the
word of our God will stand forever. (Isaiah 40:6-8)

From Jesus' teachings we read:
So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its
own. Today's trouble is enough for today. (Matthew 6:34)

From Buddhism we read:
By detachment from appearances, abide in Real Truth.
So I tell you, Thus shall you think of all this fleeting world,
A star at dawn, a bubble in a stream;
A flash of lightning in a summer cloud,
A flickering lamp, a phantom, a dream. (Diamond Sutra 32)

One: With words that illumine
Many: **May we hear the Word.**

CHILDREN'S STORY

*Children are invited to come to the Chancel Steps to share a story.
Following the story, young children may choose to go to the nursery (both services)
or to Shepherds (11:00am—a play time in the Red Room downstairs).*

*Please note: during our 11am worship this morning,
our ushers will collect our morning offerings during our children's story.*

<http://capitalistbanter.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/09/tornado1.jpg>

11:00AM WORSHIP

REQUIEM

source: John Rutter

Chancel Choir, Instrumentalists, and Soloists

Please see insert for program notes and text of individual movements.

8:30AM WORSHIP

ANTHEM

"Just a Closer Walk"

arr: Schrader

Youth Band

MEDITATION

"The Role of the Requiem"

Katherine Hawker

*HYMN

"An Offering for Haiti"

tune: A Mighty Fortress

words: Cynthia Hinson

**When human suffering startles the earth,
we dare not claim our God the cause,
For God who loves us shares our pain
and wills to comfort us in our loss.
Yet struggling to believe
That God does with us grieve
We call out in our prayers,
And plead that others share
Such needs beyond imagined cost.**

**The Spirit crosses all doctrinal bounds,
uniting minds and hearts and hands.
As Body one the faithful move
to meet the call as best we can.
Not only words of prayer,
But goods and wealth we share
To help to ease the pain,
To live in our Lord's reign,
With passion we in unity stand.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Believing that each joy and/or concern expressed is indeed a prayer,
After each expression, the worship leader will say: Lord in your Mercy.
And the people may respond: Hear our prayer.*

source: G. Vosper

Many: **As I live every day,
I want to be a channel for peace.
May I bring love where there is hatred
and healing where there is hurt;
joy where there is sadness
and hope where there is fear.
I pray that I may always try
to understand and comfort other people
as well as seeking
comfort and understanding from them.
Wherever possible, may I choose to be
a light in the darkness, a help in times of need,
and a caring, honest friend.
May justice, kindness, and peace
flow from my heart forever,
Amen.**

Our Hearts Ache Eastward

(For victims of floods, earthquakes and tsunamis in the Pacific)

Safiyah Fosua

O God, our hearts ache eastward

For lives lost

Suddenly

For families swallowed

By water and earth

For home and hearth gone

And memories forever changed

In an instant.

O God, our eyes look to you

For healing

For comfort

For hope

For direction.

O God,

Our arms reach out

To do all that we can

In whatever ways that we can

For as long as is needed

For neighbors and friends

In the Pacific.

<http://macroartnature.files.wordpress.com/2009/01/08sunanti4w1wp.jpg>



TABLE PRAYER AND PROCESSION TO THE TABLE

INVITATION AND REMEMBRANCE

One: We pray together:

Many: **Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

Bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine.

Bless all of us in our eating and drinking

that our eyes might be opened,

that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst

indeed, in one another. Come, Holy Spirit, come.

The Congregation is invited to come forward by the center aisle... partaking of the bread and cup, lighting a candle in prayer, and placing an offering in the plates beside the table.

*HYMN

"Spirit of God is Love"

tune: St. Joseph
words: D. Patterson

C Em Am

Spir - it of God is love _____ Spir - it of God is
Spir - it of God is grace _____ Spir - it of God is
Spir - it of God is truth _____ Spir - it of God is
Spir - it of God is here _____ Spir - it of God is

G C F

pa - tience Spir - it of God is gen - tle - ness
mer - cy _____ Spir - it of God is heal - ing in -
know ledge _____ Spir - it of God is wis - dom that
wait - ing _____ Spir - it of God is ev - ery - where

G C F G C

known Through care as we com - fort a child. _____
spired Through hope as we of - fer com - pas - sion.
grows Through time as we o - pen our - selves. _____
known Through peo - ple who long for God's peace. _____

**JUNE 5—A SPECIAL DAY
for our community**

**Special
Congregational Meeting
June 5, 2011
9:45am**

*to authorize funding
for facility repairs
(more details coming soon!)*

**Church Picnic
June 5, 2011
12noon**

*Our annual end of year potluck cele-
bration will be held
on the front lawn with food and fun
for all.*

*This year will include a special
musical presentation by
Doorei Korean Drumming Circle!
Sign up is available on the clipboard*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

One: Our world remains in a state of convulsion:
people in shock -
homes in ruins -
livelihoods devastated.

Many: **But for a time we have paused from our scurry
centered our spirits
joined hearts with those who are struggling
mindful of the spirit beyond our own.**

One: The battle to combat disease goes on -
medical staff -
relief workers -
all striving to ensure that lives overwhelmed by water
are not ended by yet more water-borne death.

Many: **Giving thanks for all that we can see
of human skill attending need
we need also trust a power beyond our own
for that which remains unseen.**

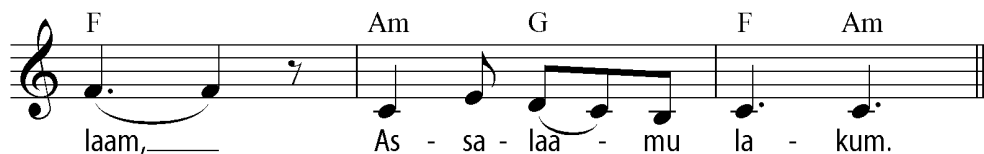
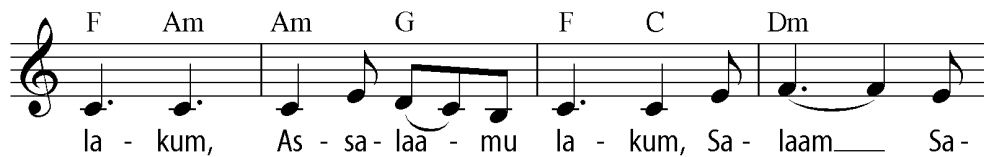
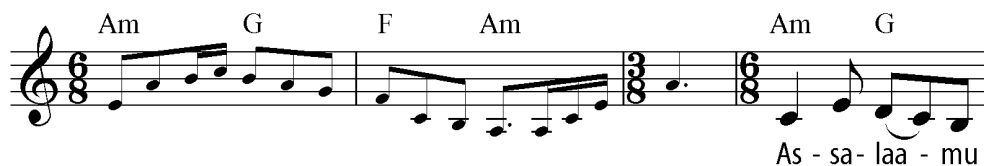
One: The world reeled - literally
when an earthquake unleashed disaster on coastlines and islands.
People reeled as the toll of suffering increased seemingly by the minute.
The peoples of the world look on and wonder:
"Where is God in all of this?"

Many: **We go with no easy answers,
we offer no glib platitudes.
Instead we acknowledge our powerlessness,
name our belief in a power beyond our own,
and make a decision to trust in that Mystery.**

The query in the prayer above comes from Wellspring (© 2004)
in response to the storms in Asia;
Responses adapted by K. Hawker.

***RESPONSE**

"As-salaamu Lakum" music: R. Bruxvoort Colligan
(Peace Be with You) Traditional Arabic Greeting



***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Bulletin recycling: Though we invite you to take your bulletin home to review the prayers and opportunities throughout the week, if you choose to leave your bulletin after the 8:30am service place it in the blue box and we will use it again!

MAY MISSION MOMENT

The Special Offering for the month of May, according to the Servant Team of EUCC, will go to the Worldwide Fistula Fund, the project of Dr. Lewis Wall, a member of our congregation. Dr. Wall goes frequently to Danja, Niger, where they have built a hospital and where he performs surgery on those women who are suffering from fistulas. We have an opportunity to help in this work by contributing to the Worldwide Fistula Fund by writing a check to our church with "Worldwide Fistula Fund" in the memo line.

GOT CHANGE?

Give your child some pennies, nickels or dimes to put in the "stone soup" pot when they come forward for the children's message on Sunday mornings!!



SUPPORTING OUR MUSIC

Special music programs at EUCC like John Rutter's "Requiem" and the children's cantata "The Story of Ruth" depend on special monetary gifts from people like YOU! Please support us with your extra contribution (write 'music' on your check). Or buy a CD of the chancel choir's performance of Changed My Name (\$10 in the narthex). Thank you for your continuing support!!

SPECIAL THANKS FOR OUR MUSICIANS!!

Soprano

Joyce Brown
Kathy Cormack
Susan Dorris
Laura Evans
Jean Karr
Vickie Miller
Patty Pelikan
Peg Sant' Ambrosio
Darlene Self
Jody Woodward (soloist)

Alto

Lucy Allen
Judy Guerrero
Katy Hawker
Jane Herz
Norma Leuthauser
Kathy Moore
Denise Stookesberry
Darcy Swanson
Carol Tag

Tenor

David Due
Rob Hartmann
Don Schindel

Bass

Doug Cormack
Gary Stalling
Dave Stookesberry
Ken Ulmer

Conductor

Jill Thompson

Instrumentalists

Loretta Haggard, flute
Jan Parkes, oboe
Beth McDonald, cello
Sue Taylor, harp
Chris Treloar, percussion
Donita Bauer, organ

EUCC COMMUNITY EVENTS

FAMILY DRUMMING NIGHT—Friday, June 3, 6:30pm

We will gather in the Fireside Room for a family friendly evening of making and playing drums. Please bring a drum (if you have one) and a snack to share. If you do have a drum, we will have extras or you can make one. Information contact **Kelly Archer at archer.kellyann@gmail.com**

PRIDEFEST 2011—June 25-26, Tower Grove Park

EUCC representatives are invited to join other UCC Open and Affirming churches as well as Eden Seminary to take part in the Gateway ONA booth. Two hour shifts are available throughout the event.. Please sign up on the ministry clipboard. For more information contact **Elaine Alexander at eeavol-coor@gmail.com**

PEACE TRAIL—August 1-5, 9:00am-12:00pm

Peace Trail is our annual week of learning and play with children in our wider community. We share yoga, art, songs, and stories and more! **Registration is available online (www.evangelicalucc.org) or by contacting the Church Office**

SUMMER MUSIC

So, you'd like to sing in choir, but just can't manage a weekly commitment throughout the year...then join us for **Summer Choir!** We'll meet once a month between services at **9:45am on the 1st Sunday of the month...June, July, August, and September**, and **voila**, we'll learn a piece of music and sing it at the late service! Hey, you think it can't be done? Well, it can't be done without you, so mark your calendar (don't wait for the reminder, because you'll already have something else planned by that time)...and join us. And stay tuned for more music options this summer!

YOUTH NEWS

All Youth are invited to meet at church TONIGHT at 4:00pm to brainstorm possible Youth Group plans for the summer. For more information, contact Jeanne Smith at jeanne@brainski.com

FELLOWSHIP AND EDUCATION

PARENT GROUP—Sundays, May 22 and 29, 9:45am

Join us today for Love and Logic with Allison LaMont

ADULT ED—Sunday, May 22, 9:45am

"The Charter for Compassion: Gordian Knot... or Not." a mix of contemporary and established, poetry and prose, introspection and interaction

EUCC MOMS' GROUP—Friday, May 27, 9:30am

Discussing organizational ideas and tips. Bring all your ideas to this interesting discussion. **If you need childcare call Dee Ban 965-1191**

EUCC QUILTERS AND ARTISTS—Wednesday, June 1, 7:00pm

We welcome anyone who enjoys sewing and crafting to join us in Fellowship Hall, and feel free to come and go at whatever times work for your family's schedule. We will have both quilt-related sewing as well as another crafts project going on. For more information, contact **Gail Saxton at 314-821-7917 or acsaxtonjr@aol.com**

YOGA—Tuesdays, 9:30am

All are welcome; no previous experience is required. Please bring a yoga mat and small blanket, all other supplies are provided

CONTEMPORARY WRITERS BOOK GROUP—Friday, June 17, 6:30

This session we will be discussing "Saving Jesus from the Church" by UCC pastor Robin Meyers in the Still Speaking Center. We are pleased to have Marty Holland as our discussion leader. Further questions contact **Marty at martyph@att.net or Bob Karr at karr.bob@gmail.com**

THIS WEEK AT EUCC

SUNDAY, MAY 22

8:30am Worship Service

9:45am Sandwich Ministry

(Fellowship Hall)

Adult Ed (Still Speaking Center)

Parent Group (Classroom 23)

Children's Church School

(Lower Level Classrooms)

Jr/Sr High Classes

(Still Speaking)

11:00am Worship Service

3:00pm Doorei Korean Drumming Group (Fellowship Hall)

3:00pm OLOC (Fireside Room)

4:00pm Youth Group (Still Speaking Center)

5:15pm Castlewood Support Group (Library)

TUESDAY, MAY 24

9:30am Amy's Yoga Class

(Still Speaking Center)

10:00am Orchard House Bible Study

THURSDAY, MAY 26

12:30pm Staff Meeting (Katy's Office)

7:00pm Chancel Choir (Choir Room)

SATURDAY, MAY 28

5:00pm Sts C&F Worship (Sanctuary, Fireside Room, Narthex)

CELEBRATE EDEN

Join us in promoting the Celebrate Eden dinner which is scheduled to be held on Friday, September 30th, at the Westin Hotel in downtown St. Louis! Lolly Wehrli has generously supported Eden and now EUCC is a Church Underwriter. This entitles the church to two tickets to the event, plus, members of the church may purchase tickets for the Celebrate Eden event at the reduced cost of \$100 per ticket (20% discount), up to eight tickets. This would enable us to have an entire table at the event! Please direct any questions to Lolly Wehrli at lollywehrli@charter.net or (636) 861-0287

PENTECOST SUNDAY

June 12, 2011

11:00am

***Join us as we celebrate the spirit
among us as we celebrate
the confirmation of our
8th Grade Youth!
(Regular worship at 8:30am)***

SUNDAY MORNING VOLUNTEERS: To sign up to help with these (or other ministries), contact the person listed or the church office or use the sign up sheet on the clip board that is passed each Sunday morning.

DATE	LITURGIST	COFFEE HOUR	USHERS	SHEPHERD	CRIB ROOM	WELCOME TABLE	MONEY COUNTERS
	<i>Read the text and prayers in worship</i> (Roni Branding)	<i>Provide snacks for coffee hour</i> (Jenny Davis)	<i>Greet worshipers, collect offering host.</i> (Jean Karr)	<i>Playtime with children during worship</i> (Kelly Archer)	<i>Assist with our babies and toddlers</i> (Carole Janssen)	<i>Greet folks at the welcome table</i> (Roni Branding)	<i>Count the weekly offerings</i> (Bob Hill)
TODAY	8:30am Mickey Clarke 11:00am Lucy Allen	Tara Warne Melissa Griggs	Bob and Bobbie Pahmeier Gigi and Bob Hill Karen Droege Wynn Miller	Jennifer Marchi Rebecca and Andrew Sommer	Gigi Hill	11:00am Laura Bardelmeier	Nick Gilham Jeremy Meyer
May 29	8:30am 11:00am	Brenda Detrick	Paul Kachulis Earl Brown Bob Karr		Ray Mulligan	11:00am Marge Engelsdorfer	Babs Schroeder Brenda Detrick

EUCC STAFF

Pastoral Team: Katherine Hawker,
Marilyn Stavenger, Al Schon
Pastoral Assistant: Sue Schindel
Music Team: Donita Bauer, Jill Thompson,
Darcy Swanson
Sunday AM: Julie White
Nursery: Carole Janssen
Campus Minister at Webster: Laurel Hayes

GOVERNING BODY

President, Janet Rundquist
Secretariat, Mickey Clarke
Financial, Ken Ulmer
Facilities, Lil Lau
People, Paul Mack
Community, Patty Pelikan, Kelley Archer
Servant, Lori Winter, Treasure Williams
Learning,
Worship, Roni Branding
Youth Representative, Erin Schroeder

Joining us for the first time?

In a word: *Welcome*

Whoever you are, wherever you are on the journey, you are truly welcome here. We are human and fallible, but utterly committed to God's extravagant welcome!

Worship Rules: *Enjoy*

Some people clap, some don't. Some babies make noise, some don't. Some people read music, some people look at pictures. We stand and either speak or sing together occasionally, but do what feels right for you. Likewise with clothes; some people wear suits with sneakers, some wear hockey uniforms with ruby slippers. Whatever style is yours, it's safe here.

Enjoy your time with us!

Coffee: *Your choice*

Bring your own or fill up with the pot in the Fireside Room. Bring it in to worship, or not; decaf or regular. *It's your choice!*

Difference: *Bring it on!*

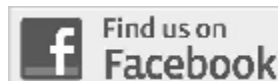
We don't simply tolerate our difference, we celebrate the wonder of the sacred in our differences... not only age, race, gender, ability, and orientation, but politics and theology too!



nursing mothers welcome!

Contact us:

204 E. Lockwood Ave, Webster Groves MO
63119
314.968.1727
email: churchoffice@evangelicalucc.org



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*An asterisk next to a section means that we stand for this part of the service as we are able.

inquisitive. inclusive. intentional. intimate. inspiring.
The Other Evangelical
www.evangelicalucc.org

Requiem

John Rutter

I. REQUIEM AETERNAM

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine:
et lux perpetua luceat eis.
Te decet hymnus, Deus in Sion:
et tibi reddetur votum in Jerusalem.
Exaudi orationem meam, ad te omnis caro veniet.
Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

*(Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord: and may light perpetual shine upon them.
Thou, O God, art praised in Sion: and unto thee shall the vow be performed in Jerusalem.
Thou that hearest the prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come.
Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.)*

(from the Requiem Mass)

II. OUT OF THE DEEP

Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord: Lord, hear my voice.
O let thine ears consider well: the voice of my complaint.
If thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss: O Lord, who may abide it?
For there is mercy with thee: therefore shalt thou be feared.
I look for the Lord; my soul doth wait for him: and in his word is my trust.
My soul fleeth unto the Lord: before the morning watch, I say, before the morning watch.
O Israel, trust in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy: and with him is plenteous redemption.
And he shall redeem Israel: from all his sins.

(Psalm 130)

III. PIE JESU

Pie Jesu Domine, dona eis requiem.
Pie Jesu Domine, dona eis sempiternam requiem.

(Blessed Lord Jesus, grant them rest. Blessed Lord Jesus, grant them eternal rest.)

(from Dies Irae of the Requiem Mass)

IV. SANCTUS

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt caeli gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis.
Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.

*(Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, the heavens are full of thy glory: hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.)*

(from the Requiem Mass)

V. AGNUS DEI

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona eis requiem.

(O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant them rest.)

Man that is born of a woman hath but a short time to live, and is full of misery. He cometh up, and is cut down like a flower; he fleeth as it were a shadow.
In the midst of life, we are in death: of whom may we seek for succour?

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

(Latin text from the Requiem Mass;
English texts from the Burial Service,
1662 Book of Common Prayer)

VI. THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

The Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing.
He shall feed me in a green pasture: and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.
He shall convert my soul: and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.
Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me: thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full. But thy loving kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

(Psalm 23)

VII. LUX AETERNA

I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, for they rest from their labours: even so saith the Spirit.
Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine: cum sanctis tuis in aeternum, quia pius es.
Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine: et lux perpetua luceat eis.

(May light eternal shine upon them, O Lord: with all thy saints for evermore, for thy mercy's sake. Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord: and may light perpetual shine upon them.)

(English text from the Burial Service (slightly altered);
Latin text from the Requiem Mass)

Requiem

John Rutter

John Rutter's "REQUIEM" Program Notes

Though he is perhaps best known for his carols and other short pieces, John Rutter also has a number of large-scale works for chorus and orchestra to his name. Most of these received their first performances in the United States, where Rutter is a frequent visitor, writing regularly for American choirs and conducting performances of his own music.

The Requiem, completed in 1985, does not adhere strictly to the conventional Catholic liturgy, but combines texts from the Requiem Mass and the Book of Common Prayer. This is by no means unusual; Faure, Brahms and Durufle all followed their own individual preferences when selecting appropriate verses to set.

The first movement comprises the Requiem Aeternam and Kyrie Eleison. This is followed by a setting

of Psalm 130, 'Out of the deep have I called unto thee O Lord' which begins darkly with an unaccompanied cello solo in C minor, later giving way to a more positive C major at the words 'for with the Lord there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption'. As with the Requiems of both Fauré and Durufle, the Pie Jesu focuses on the soprano soloist, though in this case with the addition of a subdued choral commentary. The Sanctus and Benedictus are both followed by an exhilarating Hosanna. In the Agnus Dei the Latin text alternates with verses from the Burial Sentences, taken from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. At this point Rutter inserts his superb setting of the 23rd Psalm, notable for its plaintive oboe solo, delicate orchestration and sensitivity to the text.

This exquisite piece, though composed some seven years earlier for Mel Olson's First United Methodist Church Choir in Omaha, was surely destined for this context, encapsulat-

ing as it does the work's message of reassurance. The last movement opens with another verse from the Burial Service, sung by the soprano soloist, which leads seamlessly into the Lux Aeterna, finally returning to the opening Requiem Aeterna theme for the peaceful conclusion.

The Requiem was first performed in its entirety on 13 October 1985 at the United Methodist Church, Dallas, Texas, conducted by the composer. Since then it has become a firm favourite with choirs and audiences the world over. Though it necessarily has its dark moments, Rutter's Requiem is unmistakably optimistic in its message of hope and comfort, expressed through the beauty of the chosen texts and Rutter's uplifting music. It is not entirely surprising that after the tragic events of 9/11 it was this setting of the Requiem that was the preferred choice of music at the many memorial services which followed across the USA.