



**4th Sunday of Easter  
Mother's Day**

**Payson Park Church**

*We are Growing with God, for the Good of the World.*

Sunday, May 11, 2025 10:30am

**Congregational - United Church of Christ**

365 Belmont Street, Belmont, Massachusetts 02478

[www.paysonpark.org](http://www.paysonpark.org) 617/484-1542

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Serving Watertown, Waltham, Belmont, Arlington, Cambridge, and beyond

*Cover art photography by Eric Wefald, February 2016. Sudbury River.*

# Gathering for Worship

*We are a Community of  
DOUBTERS, SEEKERS, & BELIEVERS  
Pursuing HOPE in our world.*

## Prepare for Worship

Zoom participants - as you check in, practice using your Mute Button, and finding your Chat Box.

## Prelude

“Sicilienne” Op. 78 *by Gabriel Fauré, (1845-1924)*  
*Pauline Lim – flute, Leah Kosch - piano*

## Greeting

*Rev. Eric Wefald*  
*Welcome to all listening in or watching, whether near or far away.*

We are growing with God. **For the Good of the World.**  
For the Good of the World. **We are growing with God.**

## Hymn

**I Heard My Mother Say** *led by our choir*  
*music and words printed below*

## Call to Worship

*(Psalm 23, 1 John 3:16-24)*

*led by Grace Yuen*

Leader: Day by day, God leads us to the deep, deep pools of peace,  
people: **to the green, lush lawns of grace.**

Leader: Day by day, Jesus calls us to pour out ourselves in service,  
people: **to anoint the stranger with hope.**

Leader: Day by day, the Holy Spirit shows us the community we could be,  
people: **the family we are called to become.**

## Prayer of Confession

*led by Lorraine Clifford*

Forgive us, O God, for the times when we fail to reach out and accompany those who are going through difficult times; those who feel imprisoned in a valley of shadows and find themselves overwhelmed by life.

**Jesus, good shepherd, help us to take the time and make the space to hear your call to us.**

The call to reveal your love, compassion and comfort wherever you need us to bind up the Wounds of the victims of today's society.

**Jesus, good shepherd, help us to take the time and make the space to hear your call to us.**

The call to reveal in tangible and authentic ways, your passion for those who feel powerless to Make any changes for good in their lives.

**Jesus, good shepherd, help us to take the time and make the space to hear your call to us.**

The call to empty ourselves of all that is contrary to your life within us so that your goodness and mercies are enjoyed not as rewards to be hoarded but as gifts to be shared.

**In your name, we pray. Amen.**

## Assurance of Grace

*led by YCOM Josh Lunde-Whitler*

Leader: Receive now again the gift of resurrection, the power of new life and new possibilities, for ourselves and for all of creation. God's call extends throughout the ages and across geographies, inviting each of us to take on a small part of a wider movement, a family, a purpose, an enduring hope for something better. Whether we have struggled to make space, to open our hearts or eyes to suffering; whether we find ourselves mired by suffering, or stuck in prisons of our own making... The yoke of the Shepherd is easy, the burden light – and the invitation never expires!

People: **Alleluia! May the risen Christ arise in our hearts anew, that we might love and serve a hurting world, as Christ did. Amen.**

## Receiving God's Word

### Scripture

John 10:19-32 *Living Bible* read by David Marchefka

### Message

“When It's Winter” given by Pastor Eric

**A Prayer for Our Mothers** – please accept a red carnation in honor of your mother,  
Or a white one in memory of her. For all who have mothers or mothering figures.

### Prayers of the People

*Pastor Eric*

*People will be invited to say a one sentence prayer if you desire.  
If in-person, please raise your hand. If on Zoom, please raise your hand or type in the Chat box.*

### Candles Prayer

*People will be invited to come forward and light a candle, and speak a name, a prayer request, or be in silence. We will also light a candle for each prayer offered online.*

### The Lord's Prayer

Leader: God, our Creator Parent, Loving Father, Caring Mother, we pray to you, saying-  
People: **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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

### Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.** *Pastor Eric*

### Announcements

# Responding to God's Grace

## Call to Generosity & Prayer

- [www.PaysonPark.org](http://www.PaysonPark.org) to support the ministry of Payson Park Church
- Deacon's Fund, an emergency fund to help those in need
- Belmont-Watertown Welcome Circle – help resettle Ukrainian refugees locally
- Monika Foundation - help resettle Haitian refugees
- UCC Global H.O.P.E. - (Disaster Response to California Wildfires, Earthquake relief, & more)

## Choir Anthem

“Mother”

by E. S. Homer (1862-1945)

## Doxology

as led by our choir

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## Sending

## Hymn

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”  
music and words printed below

led by our choir

## Benediction

## Postlude

Finale (*Allergo*), Sonata in D major

*Hob. XVII/D1* by Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

Today's Call to Worship was written by Rev. Thom Shuman. The Prayer of Confession was adapted from Rev. Moira Laidlaw, Uniting Church in Australia



## Fellowship after Worship

### Jane Marshall and Rob Baxter

We thank our hosts this Sunday. Please check the schedule posted in the Kitchen & outside the Office. Please look for your spot. Let Lynda know at [Office@PaysonPark.org](mailto:Office@PaysonPark.org) if you need to update your assigned Fellowship Hosting date. Thank you!

## Payson Park Church – Congregational - United Church of Christ –

[www.PaysonPark.org](http://www.PaysonPark.org) 365 Belmont Street [Office@paysonpark.org](mailto:Office@paysonpark.org)

Leah Kosch, Music Director

[AMusicDirector@paysonpark.org](mailto:AMusicDirector@paysonpark.org)

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[CommunityMusicDir@PaysonPark.org](mailto:CommunityMusicDir@PaysonPark.org)

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Rev. Bill Ragan, Ministerial Associate:

[MinAssoc@paysonpark.org](mailto:MinAssoc@paysonpark.org)

Pastor Eric Wefald:

[PastorEric@paysonpark.org](mailto:PastorEric@paysonpark.org)

## Upcoming Dates . . . .

- Sat May 10 Every two weeks we make sandwiches for The Outdoor Church.  
Please contact [Pam Curtis](mailto:pamcurtis@gmail.com) if you can help. [pamcurtis@gmail.com](mailto:pamcurtis@gmail.com)
- Sat May 10 5 – 7pm Kids’ Night. This time at Plymouth church.
- Sun May 11 9am Sacred Hike
- Sun May 11 Mother’s Day + Church World Service blankets for families in Disaster Area camps during coffee fellowship – Ask the Pastor ANY Question!
- Sun May 11 9am TLC – Theology, Literature, & Coffee – led by Rev. Bill Ragan, Ministerial Assoc.
- Tue May 13 7pm Finance
- Thu May 15 10am Thursday Morning Bible Study by Zoom - *Each Week*
- Fri May 16 5pm Children’s Choir - *Each Week*
- Sat May 17 10am-4pm Belmont Town Day
- Sat May 24 4 – 5:30pm Mindful Munchies, with mindfulness expert Teo Evans
- Tue May 27 We prepare home-cooked meals for the hungry of Bristol Lodge, Waltham.  
Please contact [Cynthia Lasker](mailto:laskercynthia@gmail.com) if you can help. [laskercynthia@gmail.com](mailto:laskercynthia@gmail.com)
- Sat May 31 12:45pm Belmont Pride Parade
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## CWS Blankets in Honor of Mother’s Day



Mothers Are Amazing!

Celebrate mothers and the love and warmth they give everyday. Give to CWS Blanket Sunday on Mother’s Day (May 11, 2025).

Thanks to the generosity of donors who support CWS Blankets and CWS Kits, Church World Service was able to respond swiftly to the devastation caused by Hurricanes Helene and Milton. CWS was on the ground quickly, providing essential relief supplies, including 26,536 CWS Kits and Blankets. These critical items are helping families begin the long journey of recovery.

Through the generosity of CWS partner organizations, congregations and individual supporters, our most vulnerable neighbors around the world can feel safe and keep warm with fresh linens and clean sleeping quarters.

*“For many people living on the edge of poverty, they often have to choose between buying food for their family and basic hygiene items. The donations from Church World Service are an essential part of keeping our family healthy.” - Kayla Davis, A Step in the Right Direction*

Here at Payson Park Church, we are collecting donations for CWS Blankets in honor of Mother’s Day. We will have a table out on Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday May 11<sup>th</sup>. You may also go online at give through [www.PaysonPark.org](http://www.PaysonPark.org) then go to our Give page. Thank you for your generosity!

## **Blessing of Prayer Shawl for Emily May 4, 2025**

Three years after Emily Dallman began her journey with cancer, we were honored to bless another Prayer Shawl for her during Coffee Fellowship 5-4-25. This lovely shawl was made by Patricia Pichette. We all prayed that as the shawl was woven together with strands of love, Emily knows she is held in the prayer shawl of our love, and most of all, the love of God. We asked for God's continuing grace and healing, giving thanks for the life of Emily, and her faithful witness and courage.



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## **Backyard Youth Theater @ PPC**

School Vacation Showcase  
"The Tree Who Sat Down"

April 25, 2025

Director Lynda Johnson

Music Director Megan Henderson



# First Fridays



PAYSON PARK CHURCH

COME AND JOIN US!

365 BELMONT STREET, BELMONT

[www.PaysonPark.org](http://www.PaysonPark.org)



6:00 PM COME-AS-YOU-ARE WORSHIP

6:30 PM DINNER FOR FAMILIES

CHILDREN'S CHOIR SINGS!  
FAMILY DINNER IS PROVIDED



upcoming dates. . . .

February 7, 2025

March 7, 2025

April 4, 2025

May 2, 2025

June 6, 2025



**Children's Choir at First Fridays**

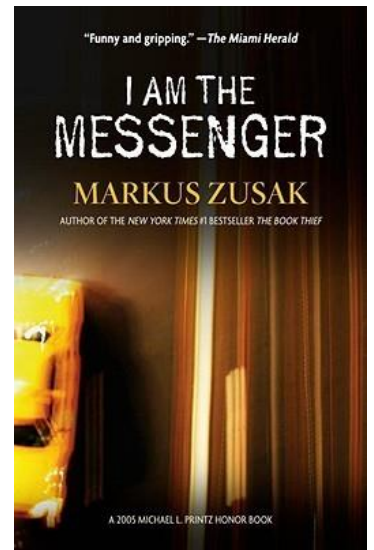
**May 2, 2025**

“Allelu, allelu, allelu, alleluia, Praise ye the Lord”

## Theology, Literature and Coffee (TLC) News

TLC begins the discussion of *I Am the Messenger* by Markus Zusak on Sunday, May 18.

My middle child and my wife love this author and highly recommend *I Am the Messenger*, a 2002 young adult novel by Markus Zusak, who won all kinds of accolades for *The Book Thief* (2005). Here, he tells the story of Ed Kennedy, an uninspired nineteen-year-old Australian taxi driver, whose journey begins after he inadvertently stops a bank robbery and receives a playing card in the mail. That's when Ed becomes the messenger. Chosen to care, he makes his way through town helping and hurting (when necessary) "There are countless saints who have nothing to do with church and almost no knowledge of God. But they say God walks with those people without them ever knowing it." As we follow Ed through his journey from "just another stupid person" to messenger, we see him grow emotionally as the assignments touch him deeper. In touching other people's lives, he finds the purpose in his.



So, get your copy of *I Am the Messenger* by Markus Zusak, and join us on Sunday, May 18 at 9:00 AM. Please feel free to contact Bill Ragan at [minassoc@paysonpark.org](mailto:minassoc@paysonpark.org) or on his cell: 484-860-4108 with any questions about this adult education opportunity.

## PAYSON PARK CHURCH

♥ **EARLY REGISTER FOR:**

**Compassion Camp 2025!**

**July 15 - 29th**

**Mon, Wed, Friday**

**5 pm - 6:15 pm daily**

*exact schedule subject to change*

Each camp day is a **SHORT**, evening program for kids and families to do together!

Crafts, Bible Stories, Drama,  
Music, Games, and More!

**REGISTER  
NOW! Use QR  
Code:**



Grow together as we explore **healthy spirituality**, & being more **generous and loving** with all

Interested? Questions? Email Josh:

[ycom@paysonpark.org](mailto:ycom@paysonpark.org)



## Palanca - A Tradition of Blessing our Youth/Children

Originally a Roman Catholic tradition that was part of confirmation, palanca notes are short words of encouragement and prayer that "lift up" children and youth closer to God (Palanca is Spanish for "lever.")\*

At Payson Park Church, you will notice a "Palanca Board" on Sundays, where everyone can leave notes of encouragement, stickers, birthday wishes, etc., for the children and youth who are a part of our community!

\* Elizabeth Corrie, Youth Ministry as Peace Education (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2021), 45-46.



**Saturday May 10th**  
5-7 pm

Service Project + Food, Crafts,  
Games, and more

At Plymouth Church  
582 Pleasant St  
(enter via Alexander St. entrance)

**REGISTER**  
by May 3 -  
Scan here:



FOR MORE INFO: - Text Josh at 626-298-0736 or email:  
ycom@paysonpark.org

# KIDS NIGHT



**NEW &  
Free**

## Mindful Munchies

with mindfulness expert Teo Evans\*

**Saturday May 24<sup>th</sup>**

**4 - 5:30pm**

Kids practice savoring, appreciating the process, having a healthy relationship with food, and having fun!

\* [emergedwellness.com](http://emergedwellness.com)



### Spring 2025 LOCATIONS:

Apr 6: Rock Meadow  
(off Mill St)

May 11: Lone Tree Hill  
(off Mill St)

June 1: Habitat Ed Ctr (10 Juniper)

**SEEKING GOD  
IN CREATION**



**Belmont Pride Parade**  
**Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 12:45PM**  
 Town Green (adjacent to 404 Concord Ave.)



**CityReach 4-12-25**

We are grateful to the congregation for all the donated clothing and food. We are grateful for this chance for our teens & friends, led by YCOM Josh, & Adult Advisor Grace, to partner and walk with the unhoused of Boston, through common cathedral.

# From Missions & Outreach:

Think you see ICE? Call 617-370-5023 (and share this number).  
Bearing witness is critical.

**Monika Foundation: HIGH NEED CURRENTLY !** We're continuing to support Dieufiles and Kerlande, and others from Haiti who are being supported by the Monika Foundation. **Check out the church's [Giving Page and donate!](#)**

## Other Refugee Support:

**NEW >> Please Support Families of those affected by latest ICE raids:**

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>New Bedford workers</b>  | <b>Everett resident Renato</b>  | <b>Mr. Ya Kintulu, DRC Activist</b>   |
|  |  |  |

Anyone with carpentry skills, looking to help a local Venezuelan family with freelance carpentry projects, repairs, cleaning jobs, etc - Please contact Josh [@ycom@paysonpark.org](mailto:ycom@paysonpark.org)

|                                       |  |  |  |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Supporting Legal Help for Immigrants: |  | Beyond Bond & Legal Defense Fund (BIJAN) |  | RIAN Immigrant Center<br>(Madeline C is On Advisory Board) |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|

If you have other suggestions, or want to be a part of a discussion on how we can support our immigrant neighbors, please contact Josh - [ycom@paysonpark.org](mailto:ycom@paysonpark.org).

### Current Donation needs for Homebase:

- Bedding
- Kitchen Utensils and Cookware
- NURSERY bedding, clothes, etc.
- Area Rugs

Email Josh ([ycom@paysonpark.org](mailto:ycom@paysonpark.org)), if you have any potential items to donate.

**Family Serve and Grow!**

**UPDATED!**

with God

for the good of the world

April: Cityreach (for Youth); possible Outdoor Church Visit?

May: Making Kids Backpacks for Wish Project (Kids Night)

June: Sandwich Making for Outdoor Church

**Food Pantry Donations Every First Fridays!**





2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR



# ENROLLMENT



Admission: 15 Months to 5 Years Old

## PAYSON PARK PRESCHOOL

### PROGRAM FEATURES :

- School Hours:  
8:00 AM to 5:30 PM
- Variety of Enrichment Programs
- Community Events
- Spacious Gym Area
- A Large Stage Designed for Performances
- Experienced and Talented Teacher

**CONTACT NOW**

 [preschooldirector@paysonpark.org](mailto:preschooldirector@paysonpark.org)



# I Heard My Mother Say

*African-American traditional*

1 I heard my moth-er say, I heard my moth-er say,  
2 At mid-night was my cry, at mid-night was my cry,  
3 Oh, when I come to die, oh, when I come to die,  
4 In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,

I heard my moth-er say, "Give me Je - sus."  
at mid - night was my cry, "Give me Je - sus."  
oh, when I come to die, give me Je - sus.  
in the morn - ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.

*Refrain*

Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus, you may

have all this world, give me Je - sus.

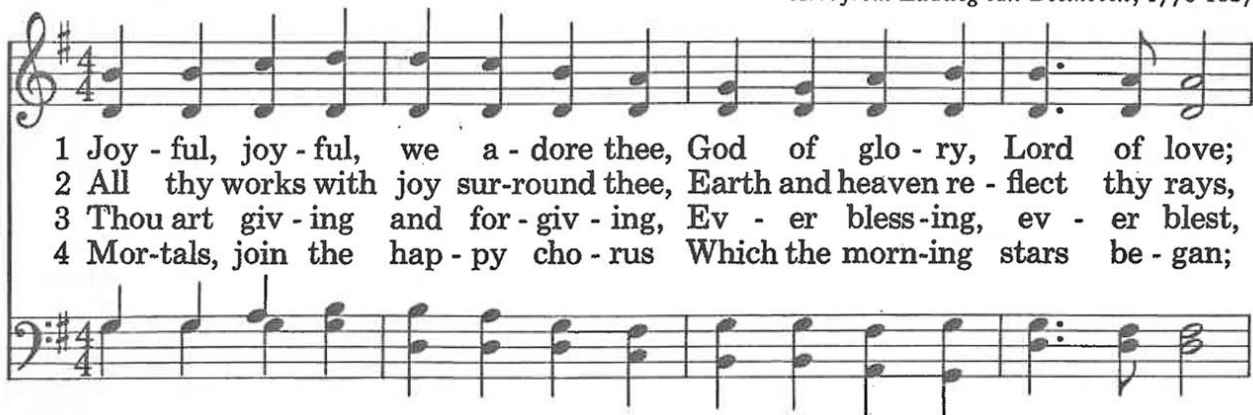
*This spiritual is better known as "Give Me Jesus." The musical arrangement was created for The New Century Hymnal by Joyce Finch Johnson, organist and professor of music at Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia.*

Tune: GIVE ME JESUS 6.6.10. with refrain  
*African-American traditional*  
Harm. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992

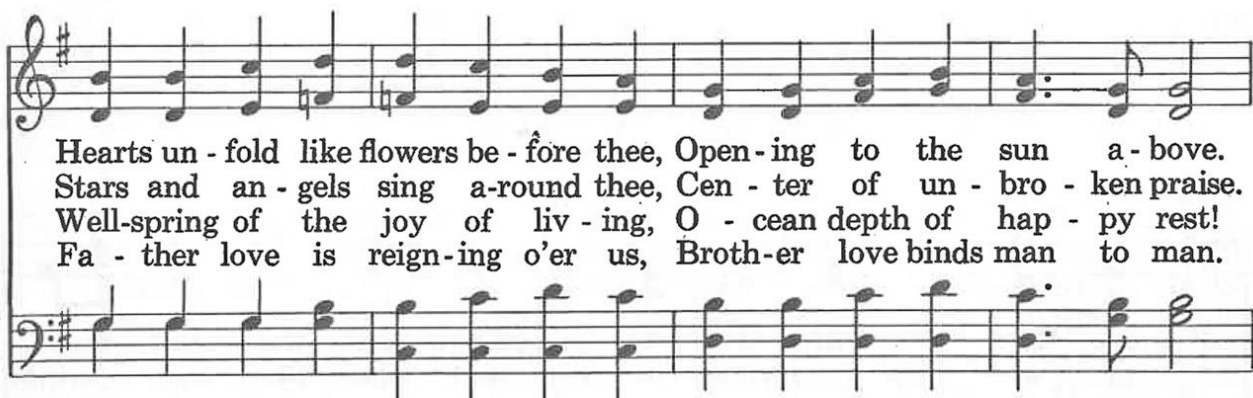
# Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Henry van Dyke, 1852-1933

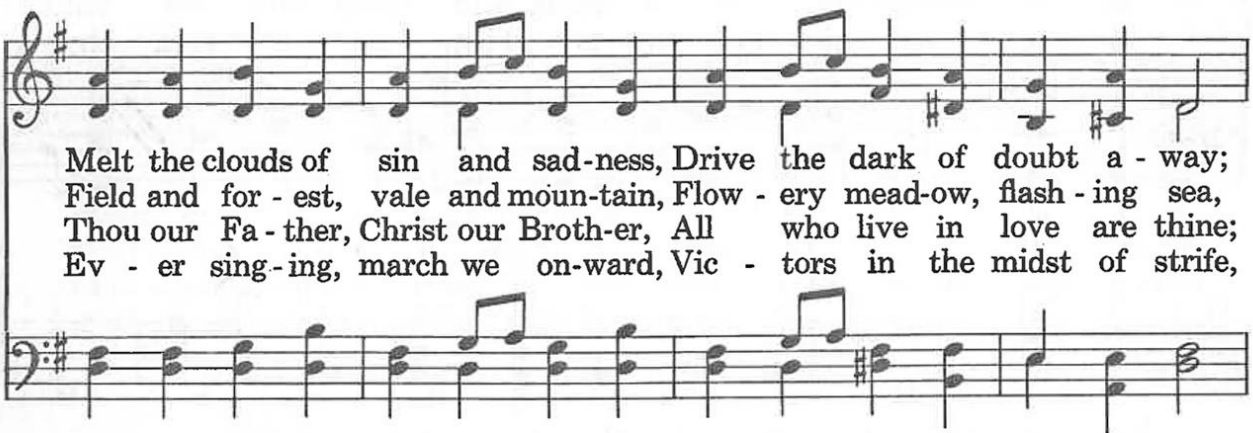
HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7.D.  
Arr. from Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;  
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, Earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,  
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,  
4 Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus Which the morn - ing stars be - gan;



Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, Open - ing to the sun a - bove.  
Stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean depth of hap - py rest!  
Fa - ther love is reign - ing o'er us, Broth - er love binds man to man.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the dark of doubt a - way;  
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flow - ery mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Broth - er, All who live in love are thine;  
Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife,



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.  
Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, Call us to re - joice in thee.  
Teach us how to love each oth - er, Lift us to the joy di - vine.  
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward In the tri - umph song of life. A - men.