



Jazz vespers moment

First Christian Church – Bloomington
April 30, 2021 - 6:30 pm

April Series of Jazz Meditations on the Theme: Longing
Longing for Promise

Elena Escudero, singer and piano
Linda Abe, reader
Stefan Lenthe, bass
Eric Garcia, guitar

Gathering Longing Elena Escudero and Stefan Lenthe

When disjoined from one another and detached from love of life
God revive us through your presence, nourish us within our strife
Promise of your amity will gift us with serenity

Words: Linda Abe, 2021 Music: Elena Escudero, 2021

Greeting and Scripture Elena Escudero

The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:24

Instrumental Jazz Moment Stefan Lenthe and Eric Garcia

Improvisation on "Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether"

Reading

These Days

Lynn Ungar (b. 1963)

Anyone who tells you not to be afraid
should have their head examined.
Cities are burning, hillsides are burning,
and the dumpster fire of our common life
is out of control. I wish I could tell you
when it was going to get better.
I wish I could promise that better
was anywhere down this road.
I miss dancing, bodies in something
between conversation and flight.
I miss singing, the way we trusted
the air that moved between us. I miss
the casual assumption that everything
would be all right in the morning.
These days I am trying to be buoyed
by the smallest things—
a ripe tomato, a smattering of rain.
These days I am trying to remember
that songs of lamentation
are still songs.

Jazz Meditation

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
Light for the world to see

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church, gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others.
Shared until all are fed.

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church, gathered today.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
Walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Making your kingdom come.

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church, gathered today.

Words and Music: Bernadette Farrell, 1993

Jazz Interpretation: Elena Escudero

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Dismissal

Linda Abe

Sung Closing Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

First Christian Jazz Vespers Staff

Helen Hempfling, Pastor
Linda Abe, Jazz Vespers Ministry
Elena Escudero, Director of Friday Jazz Vespers Moments
Jan Harrington, Director of Music
Jono Palmer, Video and Audio Editor

Acknowledgements

Longing: Text Linda Abe and Music Elena Escudero, © 2021
Recorded by Elena Escudero and Stefan Lenthe

These Days: Lynn Ungar, in *These Days: Poetry of the Pandemic Age*, © 2020, accessed <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/poetry/these-days>

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