



Jazz vespers moment

First Christian Church – Bloomington

July 16, 2021 6:30 pm

First Broadcast November 13, 2020 6:30 pm

From November Series of Jazz Meditations
on the Theme: Searching
Searching For Vision

Elena Escudero, vocalist and piano

Linda Abe, reader

Stefan Lenthe, bass

Garret Fasig, saxophone

Gathering

Searching

Elena Escudero

God of wisdom, God of Vision
Who accepts us as your own
Though we struggle to find purpose
Loved by you we're not alone.

Words: Linda Abe, 2020 Music: Elena Escudero, 2020

Greeting and Scripture

Elena Escudero

For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie:
though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

-Habakkuk 2:3

Instrumental Jazz Moment

Stefan Lenthe and Garret Fasig

Jazz Improvisation #2

Doctor, you say there are no haloes
around the streetlights in Paris
and what I see is an aberration
caused by old age, an affliction.
I tell you it has taken me all my life
to arrive at the vision of gas lamps as angels,
to soften and blur and finally banish
the edges you regret I don't see,
to learn that the line I called the horizon
does not exist and sky and water,
so long apart, are the same state of being.
Fifty-four years before I could see
Rouen cathedral is built
of parallel shafts of sun,
and now you want to restore
my youthful errors: fixed
notions of top and bottom,
the illusion of three-dimensional space,
wisteria separate
from the bridge it covers.
What can I say to convince you
the Houses of Parliament dissolve
night after night to become
the fluid dream of the Thames?
I will not return to a universe
of objects that don't know each other,
as if islands were not the lost children
of one great continent. The world
is flux, and light becomes what it touches,
becomes water, lilies on water,
above and below water,
becomes lilac and mauve and yellow
and white and cerulean lamps,
small fists passing sunlight
so quickly to one another
that it would take long, streaming hair
inside my brush to catch it.

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To paint the speed of light!
Our weighted shapes, these verticals,
burn to mix with air
and change our bones, skin, clothes
to gases. Doctor,
if only you could see
how heaven pulls earth into its arms
and how infinitely the heart expands
to claim this world, blue vapor without end.

Jazz Meditation

O God of Vision

LOBE DEN HERREN

O God of vision far greater than all human scheming,
gather us now in your presence, refreshing, redeeming.
Show us anew life in your breathtaking view,
lovely beyond all our dreaming.

Grant to us insight, O God, for this time of decision.
May we dream challenging dreams of both depth and precision.
Speak through the dark. Dispel by lightning's bright spark
whatever clouds dim our vision.

Break the sun's rays into color, a rainbow around us.
Storm clouds, though real and near, are not enough to confound us.
Arched in the sky, beauty and promise are high,
giving us hope to astound us.

Words: Jane Parker Huber, 1981

Music: *Erneuerten Gesangbuch*, 1665

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Dismissal

Linda Abe

Closing Instrumental Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Stefan Lenthe

First Christian Jazz Vespers Staff

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Linda Abe, Jazz Vespers Ministry
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Acknowledgement

Art images chosen from the works of French artist Claude Monet (1840-1926)

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to strictly follow guidelines regarding social distancing.*