



Jazz
vespers
moment

First Christian Church – Bloomington
September 10, 2021 - 6:30 pm
First Broadcast March 26, 2021

from March Series of Jazz Meditations on the Theme: Embracing
Embracing the Future

Elena Escudero, singer and piano
Linda Abe, reader
Stefan Lenthe, bass and piano
Skyler Floe, trumpet

Gathering Embracing Elena Escudero and Stefan Lenthe

As we contemplate our future in the still and dark of night,
we find solace and renewal ever grateful for God's light.

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

Greeting and Scripture Elena Escudero

Therefore, you also must be ready;
for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.
-Matthew 24:44

Instrumental Jazz Moment Stefan Lenthe and Skyler Floe

Free Improvisation #6: Moving Forward

Reading

Ready

Rabbi Rachel Barenblat (b. 1975)

You'll need to travel light.
Take what you can carry: a book, a poem,
a battered tin cup, your child strapped
to your chest, clutching your necklace
in one hot possessive fist.

So the dough isn't ready. So your heart
isn't ready. You haven't said goodbye
to the places where you hid as a child,
to the friends who aren't interested in the journey,
to the graves you've tended.

But if you wait until you feel fully ready
you may never take the leap at all
and Infinity is calling you forth
out of this birth canal
and into the future's wide expanse.

Learn to improvise flat cakes without yeast.
Learn to read new alphabets.
Wear God like a cloak
and stride forth with confidence.
You won't know where you're going

but you have the words of our sages,
the songs of our mothers, the inspiration
wrapped in your kneading bowl. Trust
that what you carry will sustain you
and take the first step out the door.

Jazz Meditation

Faith Begins by Letting Go

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Faith begins by letting go,
giving up what had seemed sure,
taking risks and pressing on,
though the way feels less secure:
pilgrimage both right and odd,
trusting all our life to God.

Faith endures by holding on,
keeping mem'ry's roots alive
so that hope may bear its fruit;
promise-fed, our souls will thrive,
not through merit we possess
but by God's great faithfulness.

Faith matures by reaching out,
stretching minds, enlarging hearts,
sharing struggles, living prayer,
binding up the broken parts:
till we find the commonplace
ripe with witness to God's grace.

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. Music: David Hurd

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Music © 1983 GIA Publications

Dismissal

Linda Abe

Sung Closing Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Elena Escudero

First Christian Jazz Vespers Staff

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Linda Abe, Jazz Vespers Ministry
Elena Escudero, Director of Friday Jazz Vespers Moments
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Embracing: Text Linda Abe and Music Elena Escudero, © 2020
Recorded by Elena Escudero and Stefan Lenthe

Ready: Rabbi Rachel Barenblat in *Velveteen Rabbi's Haggadah for Pesach*, created March 2020,
accessed March 2021, <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/poetry/ready>

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to strictly follow guidelines regarding social distancing.*