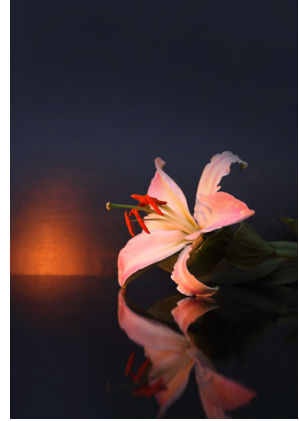


Hymn of the Week

May 19, 2019 • Easter V



This Is a Day of New Beginnings

Text: Brian Wren, 1978.

January 1978, revised 1988. Written for New Year's Day Sunday, Church of the Holy Family, Blackbird Leys, Oxford, England. Because the New Year is an arbitrary date on the calendar, it's ability to bring renewal is questionable, so the original began, "Is this a day of new beginnings?", developed further in a second stanza: "How can the season of a planet, / mindlessly spinning round its sun, / with just a human name and number, / say that some new thing has begun?" The revision, made at the request of the United Methodist Hymnal Revision Committee, simplifies the hymn, and makes it more widely usable. The "communion stanza" is an alternative, not an addition: I am regularly in churches which fail to notice this, and sing two stanzas with almost identical words. The communion stanza is original: the Church of the Holy Family had a weekly service of Word and Sacrament, and could always sing, "in faith we'll gather round the table." –Brian Wren (from *Faith Renewed*, © 1995 Hope Publishing Co.).

Music: BERING MEMORIAL, David Ashley White

This hymn served as the basis for an anthem commissioned by Bering United Methodist Church, Houston, in celebration of its sesquicentennial in 1998, and the tune is named in honor of the church. (Anthem published by Selah, 425-871)

Topics: Anniversaries, New Beginnings

Scriptural References: 2 Corinthians 5:17; Philippians 3:12–14; Revelation 21:5

Publications

Sing to Our God New Songs of Rejoicing (Selah, 2000)

Selah Songs of Rejoicing (Selah, 2011)

Songs for a New Creation (Selah, 2002)



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This Is a Day of New Beginnings

1 This is a day of new be - gin - nings, time to re -
 2 For by the life and death of Je - sus, love's might - y
 3 Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, step from the
 4 Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us to show and

mem - ber and move on, time to be - lieve what love is
 Spir - it, now as then, can make for us a world of
 past and leave be - hind our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and
 share what love can do. This is a day of new be -

bring - ing, lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
 dif - ference, as faith and hope are born a - gain.
 griev - ing, seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.
 gin - nings; our God is mak - ing all things new.

1-3 4

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Alternate stanza 4 for communion: In faith we'll gather round the table
 to show and share what love can do.
 This is a day of new beginnings;
 our God is making all things new.