



HYMN WRITING CONTEST Press Release

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For immediate release

For further information call 651-698-8871

Macalester Plymouth United Church of Saint Paul, Minnesota is pleased to announce the winners of our church's 2014 hymn contest. Our nineteenth annual contest was a search for a **hymn that celebrates God's presence in current social changes and changes in the church.**

The judges this year selected a winning hymn and an honorable mention. The winning author will receive a prize of \$400 and the honorable mention author will receive \$100.

The winning hymn, *A Hymn for Peace*, was written by **Christopher L. Webber**. Christopher Webber is an author and a priest of the Episcopal Church. He has served in the New York area and in Tokyo, Japan but moved to San Francisco, California in 2013. He has written over thirty books ranging from *The Beowulf Trilogy* to a ground-breaking study of marriage. His most recent books are an important addition to black history titled *American to the Backbone*, the biography of James W.C. Pennington, a fugitive slave and leader in the abolition movement, and *Dear Friends: St. Paul's Letters to American Christians*.

Webber has climbed Mt. Fuji in Japan as well as the highest peaks in New York and New England. He is currently on the staff of the Church of the Incarnation in San Francisco and serves as Adjunct Professor of Liturgics at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific. He and his wife, Margaret, have four children and four grandchildren. For more information on Mr. Webber visit www.clwebber.com.

A Hymn for Peace

65.65 D with refrain

ST. GERTRUDE

Lead us, Holy Spirit, in the way of peace;
Help us walk together so that wars shall cease
Break down our divisions, overcome our fears,
Help us heal the wounded, stem the flow of tears.
 Help us work together; let our conflicts cease;
 Lead us, Holy Spirit, in the way of peace.

At the font you make us members of God's Son,
Members of Christ's body, out of many one;
Let the life you give us, like a healing tide,
Bring new life to all those for whom Jesus died.
 Help us work together; let our conflicts cease;
 Lead us, Holy Spirit, in the way of peace.

You have poured upon us every gift and grace,
Called us now to serve you in this time and place;
Teach us how to care for water, land, and air;
Help us to preserve it; teach us how to share.
 Help us work together; let our conflicts cease;
 Lead us, Holy Spirit, in the way of peace.

Give us all a vision of a world remade
In which none are hungry, homeless, or afraid;
Open eyes now blinded by our selfishness;
Show us what is needed; what we offer, bless.
 Help us work together; let our conflicts cease;
 Lead us, Holy Spirit, in the way of peace.

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A second hymn was chosen to receive honorable mention. *God of Constant New Creation* was written by **William Allen Pasch**. William Pasch serves as organist at First Presbyterian Church in Peachtree City, Georgia. Professor Emeritus of English at Clayton State University in south suburban Atlanta, he has also been a lifelong church musician, starting as organist at age thirteen in his home Lutheran congregation in Toledo, Ohio. He has continued as organist, singer, and choir director in various positions in Ohio,

Massachusetts, and Georgia ever since. He is often called upon as organist for festival services of the ELCA-Southeastern Synod. His choral anthems are published by Augsburg Fortress and St. James Music Press. His hymn texts have been published in Lutheran Forum and in CrossAccent (Association of Lutheran Church Musicians) and have won prizes in national and international competitions. He resides in Griffin, Georgia where his spouse, Katherine, serves as pastor of Saint John Lutheran Church.

God of Constant New Creation

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LAUDA ANIMA

God of constant new creation
In the great and in the small,
Through the eons, every instant,
In us each and in us all,
You transform all transformation.
May we hear your quickening call.

Every challenge to our comfort
In our narrow day-to-day
Is a summons to repentance
Toward the caring, Christ-like-way.
Restless God yet Patient Potter,
Shape afresh your stubborn clay.

You are ever-present future,
Grant us glimpses of your view.
Help us face the unfamiliar,
See beyond the “tried and true,”
And, despite our unbelieving,
Still believe all can be new.

Keep your Church in reformation,
Seeking you at every turn.
Dash our idols when they harden.
Make us bold to grow and yearn.
Stir us with your changeless changing.
Teach us faith, that we may learn.

Living Word, Love’s Song through scripture,
Build our confidence in Grace.
Ready us for revelation
Yet unseen in time or space.
God of endless re-emerging,
Give new birth in your embrace.

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