

**Bay County Christian Youth Choir Spring 2012 Tour Program Script—On Beauty: God, Church, and Creation.**

*Beautiful Chant – Processional*

**Reading 1: God—the Source of all Beauty**

God is beautiful. But, what does this statement mean? How do you define “beauty” and how do we know that God is beautiful if we cannot see him?

The dictionary defines “beauty” as characteristics or attributes pleasing to the eye, the ear, the heart and the mind. God designed us to be drawn toward beauty and created us to pursue his beauty so that we might know more about his character, attributes and work in the world.

We see beauty in specific things all around us - a Panama City Beach sunset, the perfect surfing wave, a game winning goal, the playing of an orchestra or the singing of a choir. We even see beauty in each other.

Behind the beauty we see in the world is the source of all beauty—God.

*God of the Desert Spring* words and music by Rick Vale

God of the desert spring,  
God of mountain high,  
True Light and heav’nly King,  
to Thee we cry;  
Heavenly father come into this place.  
We long to know Your heart,  
and seek Your face.

God of the canyon wall,  
God of sage and sea,  
Lord of the great and small,  
we cry to Thee;  
Holy Jesus come into this place.  
We long to know Your heart, and seek Your  
face.

God of the artist’s hand,  
God of nature’s song.  
God of the native sand,  
for Thee we long.  
Holy Spirit come,  
we would welcome Thee.  
Come and meet us here,  
Blessed Trinity!

God of the Heav’n and earth,  
God of flesh and soul,  
God of the heart’s rebirth,  
come and make us whole.  
Make us one with You as we gather here.  
Hold us in Your hands, and keep us near.  
Amen.

**Reading 2: Creation—A Reflection of God’s Beauty**

ALL \_\_\_\_\_ 1 The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.  
2 Day after day they pour forth speech,  
night after night they display knowledge.  
3 There is no speech or language  
where their voice is not heard.  
4 Their voice goes out into all the earth,  
their words to the ends of the world. Psalm 19:1-4 NIV

Although creation does *not* have the gift of language, the heavens still *declare* and the sky *proclaims* the presence, power and beauty of God.

Creation's voice is instinctive and unknowing; it screams out that there is a God by its simple existence.

Our next songs examine how God's beauty is revealed in creation. We can learn something about God's holiness, power, majesty and goodness by looking at his reflection in nature.

*O Lord, our Lord, Your Words Are Glorious* by J. S. Bach, arranged by Hal H. Hopson

O Lord, our Lord,  
your works are glorious in all the earth.  
You crown your own  
with love unmeasured, with honor and joy.  
To God be all glory; forever sing praise.

*For The Beauty of the Earth* words by F. S. Pierpoint; music and arrangement by John Rutter

For the beauty of the earth,  
For the beauty of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth  
Over and around us lies:  
Refrain: Lord of all, to thee we raise,  
this our joyful hymn of praise.

For the joy of human love,  
Brother, sister, parent, child.  
Friends on earth and friends above,  
For all gentle thoughts and mild.  
Refrain

For the beauty of each hour  
Of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
Sun and moon and stars of light:  
Refrain

For each perfect gift of thine,  
To our race so freely given,  
Graces human and divine,  
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven:  
Refrain

### **Reading 3: Our Response to God's Beauty---Praise!**

Why does the beauty of God's creation take our breath away? Why does it pull at our eyes and heart? The answer is that there is a longing for beauty that lies within the heart of each of us.

Creation's beauty points us toward our Creator. It would be idolatry to worship creation instead of the Creator; but we can be helped in our worship of God if we look *through* the beauty of creation to God, the creator and source of that beauty.

Isaac Watts, the father of English church music, wrote "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" as a hymn for children. Although it is a hymn deep in theology and meaning, Isaac Watts said he tried to keep the language simple so that a child could understand it.

Isaac Watts speaks of the beauty God has created in nature—the mountains, the seas, the skies, the sun, moon and stars and that fact that all of creation, including us, is dependent on God for our very being and care.

*I Sing The Mighty Power of God* words by Isaac Watts, music from Gesangbuch der Herzogl

I sing the mighty pow'r of God  
that made the mountains rise,  
That spread the flowing seas abroad,  
and built the lofty skies.  
I sing the wisdom that ordained  
the sun to rule the day.  
The moon shines full at His command,  
and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord,  
that filled the earth with food.  
He formed the creatures with His word,  
and then pronounced them good.

Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed  
where'er I turn my eye.  
If I survey the ground I tread  
or gaze upon the sky!

There's not a plant or flow'r below  
but makes Thy glories known,  
And clouds arise and tempests blow  
by order from Thy throne;  
While all that borrows life from Thee  
is ever in Thy care,  
And ev'rywhere that man can be,  
Thou, God, are present there. Amen.

#### **Reading No. 4: Christians—Made Beautiful through Christ**

How can we, as human beings, be beautiful? The book of Genesis says that we are created in the image of God, and the Psalmist tells us that from our mother's womb we were fearfully and wonderfully made by God.

But we have a problem. Instead of humankind displaying the glory of God like the rest of creation, we sometimes do terrible things to each other and to God's creation. We murder, steal, cheat, lie and pollute. Because of our sin, our lives don't reflect the beauty of our Creator.

ALL For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23 NIV

We need a savior; we need rescuing from the ugliness of our sin. Because of God's love, the Father sent his son, Jesus, to live the perfect life that God demands of us and to take the punishment of death on the cross that we all deserve.

Our beauty is tarnished because of our sin. But as Christians, we can reflect God's beauty again. That beauty is given as a gift from the righteous work of Jesus Christ on the cross. We have hope!

ALL But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ... For by grace you have been saved through faith. Ephesians 2:4,5 NIV

The hymn, *How Deep The Father's Love For Us*, explains that the cross of Christ is the only hope for sinners and that we have done nothing on our own to deserve our rescue.

The song, "Who at My Door Is Standing," taken from Revelation 3:19, refers to Christ standing outside the door of our lives seeking entrance. God wants to live in us. Our response to the invitation of Jesus Christ should be to open the door of our lives to him as Lord and Savior.

Aaron Shust's new version of the old hymn, *I Am Not Skilled To understand*, points out that we can't understand God's plan but we know we need a Savior and that our Savior loves us.

*How Deep The Father's Love for Us* words and music by Stuart Townend; arranged by Larry Shackley (c.1995)

How deep the Father's love for us,  
How vast beyond all measure  
that he should give his only Son  
to make a wretch his treasure.

How great the pain of searing loss.  
The Father turns his face away  
as wounds which mar the Chosen One  
bring many sons to glory.  
How high, how wide, how deep the Father's  
love for us.

Behold the Man upon a cross,  
my sin upon his shoulders.  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held him there

until it was accomplished;  
his dying breath has brought me life.  
I know it is finished.  
How pure, how strong, how deep the Father's  
love for us.

I will not boast of anything;  
no gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom.  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ:  
his death and resurrection.

Why should I gain from his reward?  
I cannot give an answer.  
But this I know with all my heart: his wounds  
have paid my ransom.  
How high, how wide, how deep the Father's  
love for us.

*Who At My Door Is Standing?* words by Mary Slade, 1875, music English folk song,  
arranged by K. Lee Scott

Who at my door is standing,  
There patiently drawing near,  
Who entrance is demanding  
Whose is the voice I hear?

Yet, the tones are falling:  
"now open the door for me!  
If thou wilt heed my calling,  
I will abide with thee."

Door of my heart, I hasten!  
Thee will I open wide.  
Though he rebuke and chasten,  
he shall with me abide.

Sweetly the tones are falling:  
"now open the door for me!"  
Lord God, I hear thee calling,  
Come now, abide with me.

*My Savior, My God* words by Dora Greenwell (1873) and Aaron Shust; music by Aaron Shust, arranged  
by Robert Sterling,

I am not skilled to understand  
What God has willed, what God has planned.  
I only know at His right hand  
Stands One who is my Savior.

I take Him at His word and deed:  
"Christ died to save me," this I read,  
And in my heart I find a need  
Of Him to be my Savior.

Chorus 1:  
That He would leave His place on high  
And come for sinful man to die,

You count it strange so once did I,  
Before I knew my Savior.

Chorus 2:  
My Savior loves, my Savior lives,  
my Savior's always there for me.  
My God, he was; My God, he is;  
He's always gonna be.

Yes, living, dying let me bring  
My strength, my solace from this spring:  
That He who lives to be my King  
Once died to be my Savior.

## Reading 5: The Role of Humankind—to be Reflectors of God’s Beauty

David wrote of his longing to be part of the beauty of God. In Psalm 27, David said that the *one thing* he wanted in all of life was to dwell in and gaze and meditate on the *beauty* of the Lord.

ALL “*One thing* I ask of the LORD,  
this is what I seek:  
that I may *dwell* in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,  
to *gaze* upon the **beauty of the LORD**  
and to *seek* him in his temple. Psalm 27:4 NIV

Through the forgiveness of our sins and the righteousness of Christ that was given to us by the Holy Spirit, we can see the beauty of God in the Bible, in creation and in our own life. When we experience God’s beauty, it transforms our lives and the way we live.

We become reflectors of God’s beauty. Our calling is to articulate, describe and share the praise of God that creation can only wordlessly proclaim. Through humankind, creation finds a voice.

The beauty of God radiates in the person of Jesus Christ: God became a human, putting his character and loving heart on display for the world to see. It’s in the person of Jesus that we find the invisible attributes of God being made visible, on display like fine pieces of artwork to be enjoyed, celebrated, and reflected upon.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus sends out his followers into this world by giving them the instruction, “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” We are called to live like Jesus in this world.

Just as God has made us in His image, we must see others in the same way—as God sees them, beautiful. We must then go out into this world, into our schools, into our families and love like Jesus, serve like Jesus, and share God with others.

Lisa and Michael Gungor remind us in their song, *Beautiful Things*, that God makes beautiful things out of the dust of the ground. God thinks we are beautiful no matter our size, shape or color. Laura Story, then helps us to appreciate the beauty of God in her song, *Immortal, Invisible*.

*Beautiful Things* words and music by Lisa Gungor and Michael Gungor

All this pain,  
I wonder if I’ll ever find my way;  
I wonder if my life could really change at all.

All this earth,  
could all that is lost ever be found?  
Could a garden come up from this ground at all?

Refrain: You make beautiful things,  
You make beautiful things out of the dust.

You make beautiful things,  
You make beautiful things out of us.

All around,  
hope is springing up from this old ground;  
Our of chaos life is being found  
in You.  
Refrain.

You make me new, You are making me new.

*Immortal, Invisible* words and music by Ed Cash and Laura Story, arranged by James Koerts

Immortal, You are not like a man  
that You change Your mind,  
or change Your plan.  
Invisible, our human eyes can't see  
the depths of Your majesty.

Refrain:  
You're the God of forever and ever, amen.  
The Alpha, Omega, Beginning and end.  
We sing hallelujah, we worship in awe.  
Immortal, invisible God.

Immortal, You are not bound by death,  
You're the living God, my very breath.  
Invisible, You are not bound by space,  
but Your glory is filling this place,  
Refrain.

Immortal, yet You once died for me  
to pay my debt, to set me free.  
Invisible You will not always be  
'cause You're coming to reign as our King,  
and the saints will fall down at Your feet.  
Refrain.

### **Reading 6: Introduce Praise & Worship Songs**

#### *Our God*

Water You turned into wine  
Opened the eyes of the blind  
There's no one like You / None like You  
Into the darkness You shine  
Out of the ashes we rise  
There's no one like You / None like You

Our God is greater, our God is stronger

God You are higher than any other  
Our God is healer, awesome in power  
Our God, our God

And if our God is for us  
Then who could ever stop us  
And if our God is for us  
Then what could stand against

#### *Revelation Song*

Worthy is the / Lamb who was slain  
Holy holy is He / Sing a new song  
To Him who sit on / Heaven's mercy seat

#### CHORUS

Holy holy holy / Is the Lord God Almighty  
Who was and is and is to come  
With all creation I sing  
Praise to the King of kings  
You are my everything

And I will adore You

Clothed in rainbows of living color  
Flashes of lightning rolls of thunder  
Blessing and honor strength and glory  
And power be to You the only wise King  
Filled with wonder awestruck wonder  
At the mention of Your name  
Jesus Your name is power breath and living  
water / Such a marvelous mystery yeah

### **Reading 7: The Beauty of the Church—A Reflection of the Trinity**

Our closing song, *All of Creation*, was written by the members of the contemporary Christian band, MercyMe. When asked how listeners can apply the message of that song to their walks as Christians, the band members wrote:

“We are called to be servants to our neighbors, but if we don't share the gospel with them, it's almost offensive and we have only accomplished a part of what God has called us to do. We need to stop letting the world teach us theology about how to act or speak.

We need to encourage one another to provide a helping hand to our neighbor, offer up random acts of kindness and share with others how our lives have been transformed by the power of the Cross. It doesn't take much action—or even many words—to make a difference both here and forever.”

This song by the band members of MercyMe depicts the power and majesty of the work of Christ, and it is a song that is grounded in Scripture. At least 24 different Bible passages are referred to, including Luke 5:26 “And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, “We have seen extraordinary things today.””

Our prayer for you is that God's extraordinary and awe-inspiring beauty will take your breath away and that you will join us in reflecting God to our world. Our hope is that you will find yourself unable to hold back from offering your best and most beautiful to God and to continue discovering in greater measure the beautiful work that you are and that God has been doing in your life.

*All of Creation* words and music by MercyMe (Brown Bannister, James Bryson, Nathan Cochran, Barry Graul, Bart Millard, Michael Scheuchzer, Robin Troy Shaffer and Daniel Muckala), arranged by Tom Fettke

Separated until the veil was torn,  
The moment that hope was born;  
And guilt was pardoned once and for all.

I'm captivated but no longer bound by chains,  
Left in an empty grave;  
The sinner and the sacred resolved.

Refrain: And all of creation sing with me now.  
Lift up your voice and lay your burden down.  
And all of creation sing with me now,  
Fill up the heavens, let His glory resound.

When time has faded

And we see Him face to face,  
Every doubt erased,  
forever we will worship the King.  
Refrain.

We will sing of His glory. We worship Him.  
The reason we breathe is to sing of His glory,  
and for all He had done.  
Praise the Father, praise the Son and the Spirit in  
One, Three in one.  
Refrain.

Praise the Father, praise the Son, and the Spirit  
in One!

## Closing Comments

*The Reason We Sing* by Dick and Melodie Tunney

He has brought us together  
each of us a different gift to bring  
We'll serve Him forever  
even if the cost is ev'rything  
He has called us to be faithful  
so with one heart we give this offering.

Chorus: The reason we sing  
the reason we lift our voice  
is more than just making harmony.  
The reason we sing  
is to praise the one who gave His son to be  
the reason we sing.

More than just an emotion,  
His spirit gives us joy that we can't hide.  
We will not be silent  
We've got to let the world hear what's inside.  
And as we praise Him with our music.  
Jesus is the one we glorify.  
Chorus.