

The Showing of Love

Text by Julian of Norwich, adapted from

The Revelations of Divine Love

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Music by Brooke Joyce

Lisa Neher, mezzo-soprano

Sunday, March 1, 2020

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Decorah, IA

I. Benedicite

Benedicite Dominus (the Lord bless)

Interlude 1 (Bells)

II. Hazelnut

He showed me a little thing, the quantity of a hazel nut, lying in the palm of my hand. And it was round as any ball. I looked thereupon with the eye of my understanding and I thought, "What may this be?" And I was answered generally thus: "It is all that is made." I marveled how it might last, for I thought it might suddenly have fallen to naught for littleness. And I was answered in my understanding: It lasteth and ever shall for God loveth it. And so hath all things their beginning by the love of God. In this littleness, I saw three properties: God made it, God loves it, God keeps it. But what beheld I therein? Truly, the maker, the keeper, the lover.

Interlude 2 (Earth)

III. The Servant (music by John Dunstable)

And then I saw the Lord sit in the sun. This majestic Lord had no servant but one. I understood how the servant should labor: he should tend the garden for our maker. Delve and dyke, toil and sweat, and turn the earth and water the plants in time to bring rebirth. Make sweet floods to run, noble fruits to spring, to set afore the Lord, his desire to bring. And he should never turn again till he had prepared for the Lord, his food all ready. Then he should take this food, and with drink outpoured, bear it worshipfully afore the Lord.

Interlude 3 (Air)

IV. God is our mother

Felix namque es sacra Virgo Maria et omni laude dignissima (For thou art happy, O holy Virgin Mary, and art worthy of all praise). As verily as God is our father, verily is God our mother. To the nature of

motherhood belong tender love, wisdom and knowledge. Our gracious mother undertook to begin his work very humbly and very gently in the Virgin's womb. *Quia ex te ortus est sol justitiae, Christus Deus noster* (for out of thee arose the Sun of justice, Christ our God). The kind, loving mother who knows the needs of her child, she watches over it most tenderly. The mother may suffer the child to fall, and be sick, but she may never suffer that any manner of peril come to her child. And as the child grows in age her actions change, although her love does not. *Alleluia*.

Interlude 4 (Fire)

V. Water

One time my understanding was let down to the bottom of the sea And I saw green hills and green dales as if they were growing moss with seaweed and gravel. Then I understood this: that if a man or woman were under the deep water, and they might have sight of God, as God is with a person continuously, they would be safe in soul and body and take no harm. And what is more, they would have more solace and comfort than all this world may or can tell.

Interlude 5 (Water)

VI. Birds

Here I saw a great one-ing betwixt Christ and us. When he was in pain, we were in pain, and all creatures that might suffer pain suffered with him. The firmament, the earth, failed for sorrow in her very nature in the time of Christ's dying. God of his goodness that made the planets and the elements to work according to their kind, in that time withdrew his work from both. Thus was our Lord Jesus made naught for us, and we in him made naught. And Christ descended to hell. And when he was there he raised up the great root out of the deep deepness, which rightfully was knit to him in high heaven. And then the Lord opened the eye of my spirit and showed me my soul in the midst of my heart. I saw the soul so large as it were an endless world and as it were a blissful kingdom, and in the midst sits our Lord Jesus, God and Man.

VII. Voices

Karitas (love). And these words, *Thou shalt not be overcome*, was said full sharply, and full mightily, for secureness and comfort against all tribulations that may come. God said not, thou shalt not be tempest; God said not, thou shalt not be travailed; God said not, thou shalt not be diseased; but God said, *thou shalt not be overcome*. God wills that we take heed at these words, and that we be ever mighty in secure trust in well and woe, for God loveth us, and so wills that we love God, and mightily trust in God, and all shall be well, *and all shall be well, And all manner of thing shall be well*. The love wherein God made us was in God from without beginning, in which love we have our beginning. And all this shall be seen in God without end. Amen. *Benedicite Dominus*.