

Music Appreciation Resources

Written for Evangelical United Church of Christ, 2001.
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Call to Worship

We are the body of Christ.

We are the people of God.

Clapping our hands, tapping our toes, lifting our voices.

Cacophony blends into harmony.

Measures of unity.

We are the people of God.

We are the body of Christ.

Confession and Assurance

For the ways in which we hide our talents...

Unsure of ourselves, we fill our lives with noise
hiding from the rhythm of the Spirit's song.

Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy upon us.

For the ways in which we stifle the music around us...

Refusing to listen, neglecting to nurture, failing to respect,
the gifts of music around us are too quickly squandered.

Christ have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Christ have mercy upon us.

For the ways in which we have denied the Holy in the beauty of music...

Defining what passes for Holy, ears tuned too narrowly,
the mystery of the Spirit's song is beyond our hearing.

Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy upon us.

Still the Spirit beckons.

The birds share a mating song,
the children offer the melody of laughter.

The rhythm of God's call in our lives
knows no beginning and no end.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

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Litany of Appreciation for the Gift of Music

Spirit of the Living God,
we give thanks for your Word dancing around us.
From the first bird in the morning until the last cricket at night,
the sounds of your presence surround us.
May our ears be opened to hear your song.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Spirit of the Living God,
we give thanks for the gift of music as it moves and shapes us.
We thank you for the ways in which the poetry expresses our faith,
the melody our longing, the harmony our hope.
May our lives and our ministries nurture the gift of music.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Spirit of the Living God, we give thanks for the musicians that lead us in
worship.
We thank you for those who lead us,
we thank you for those who tap and strum and play,
we thank you for those who blend their voices.
May our lives display appreciation for the gift of music
and respect for the dedication of those who share the gift with us.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Spirit of the Living God,
we give thanks for the opportunity to express our love
for you and for one another
through the powerful mystery of rhythm.
May our expressions of word and melody honor you, now and always.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.