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Light is Deepest Night is a Lenten journey using the mystical writings of Julian of Norwich (1342–c. 1416). This worship experience draws on Julian's reflections on life, love, and light. The work includes anthems, hymns, and short spoken meditations.

Aaron David Miller is a renowned organist and composer, having won numerous international awards and given concerts across the United States and Europe. He is the Director of Music at House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, MN.

David L. Miller is Dean of the Chapel and the first Floy L. and Paul F. Cornelsen Director of Spiritual Formation at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. Offering courses and retreats in spiritual formation, coordinating the worship life of the seminary, and developing a Center for Spiritual Formation at LSTC are among his responsibilities.

David and Aaron are father and son.

~ ~ ~ ~

Needed Resources

- 2 - 3 readers
- SATB choir
- Organ
- 2 Violins or Treble Instruments
- Optional Youth Choir or Soloist
- Assembly

Instrumental Performance Options

- 2 Violins and Organ (preferred)
- String Quartet and Organ
- Organ only

Resources Available at www.AugsburgFortress.org

- String parts for 2 Violins (gratis)
- Full String Quartet score and Instrument parts for anthems
AF 978-0-8006-6452-7
- Solo Organ versions for settings with Strings
AF 978-0-8006-6451-0
- Audio CD: Recorded with Aaron David Miller at the organ and David L. Miller narrating.
AF 978-0-8006-6450-3

Prelude

for 2 violins, organ, and opt. handbells,

Aaron David Miller

With anticipation (♩. = 56)

Violin 1

Handbells

Organ

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

HB

p legato

9

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Light in Deepest Night, ISBN 978-0-8006-2170-4
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Choir Procession

Faith, Be Our Light in Deepest Night

for 2-part mixed choir, a cappella, and opt. handbells

setting, Aaron David Miller

Chant-like (♩ = 60)

Handbells

mp

mp legato

Faith, be our light in deep-est night, _____

mp legato

Faith, be our light in deep-est

7

Spir - it of good, our end - less day. _____

Blest be your

night, _____

Spir - it of good, our end - less day. _____

12

ho - ly trin - i - ty, _____

You are the good - ness of all

Blest be your ho - ly trin - i - ty, _____

Tune: ERHALT UNS, HERR; J. Klug, *Geistliche Leier*, 1543
 Text: Julian of Norwich, adapt. David L. Miller
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Opening Hymn

Oh, Love How Deep

for 2 violins, organ, assembly, and opt. descant

setting, Aaron David Miller

With confidence - in one (♩ = 56)

Violin 1
f detached

Violin 2
f detached

Organ
f *sim.*

9

Tune: DEO GRACIAS; English ballad, 15th cent.

Text: Thomas à Kempis, 1380–1471; tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819–1885, alt. (Note: Verses 1 and 5-7 in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, #322.)

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Assembly

54

1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how
 2 For us by deep, ed - ness be -
 3 For us he rose from death a -

f accentuated

57

high, be - yond all thought and fan - ta -
 trayed, for us, in crown of thorns ar -
 gain; for us he went on high to

61

sy, that God, the Son of God, should take our
 rayed, he bore the shame - ful cross and death; for
 reign; for us he sent his Spir - it here to

Anthem

Living Prayer

for SATB choir, a cappella, and alto solo

Aaron David Miller

Gently (♩ = 60)

p

Soprano
Alto

Make my life a liv - ing prayer. May I

Tenor
Bass

5

fleur - ish in your sight. Make my

9

life a liv - ing prayer. *unis.* *mp* Where there is truth and

13

wis - dom, there is love. *mp*

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Anthem

Lead Us into Fullness of Joy

for SATB choir and organ

Aaron David Miller

Allegro moderato, with conviction (♩. = 88)

unis. f

Soprano
Alto

Lead us___ in-to full - ness_ of joy.

unis. f

Tenor
Bass

Lead us___ in-to full - ness_ of

f

Organ

6

Lead us___ in-to full - ness of joy.

joy.

Lead us___ in-to full - ness of joy.

sim.

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12 *mp*

Tenor only *mp*

You are our hope for end - less bliss. Be our

2

2

+ Bass

18

keep - er.

Lead us in-to full - ness of

f

unis. f

as before

~Blessing~

Leader: Christ, all life,
lift us to the joyous freedom of the life you will for us.

All: Amen.

~ ~ ~ ~

Alternate Blessing

Leader: The reason we are oppressed by our sins and pain,
impatience and despair, is because of our ignorance of love.
It is about this knowledge that we are most blind,
for many women and men believe that God is almighty and
may do everything, and that God is all wisdom and can do
everything,
but that God is all love and wishes to do everything, that is
where they fail and it is this that most hinders them.
For it is God's will that we have most confidence in his
delight and his love.
Just so, God wishes us to forget our sins and all our
depression and all our doubtful fears.
God wants us always to be strong in our love and peaceful
and restful as he is toward us.
Christ, all life,
lift us to the joyous freedom of the life you will for us.

All: Amen.

Hymn

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

for 2 violins, organ, and assembly

setting, Aaron David Miller

In a gentle 2 ($\text{♩} = 66$)

Violin 1
mp legato

Violin 2
mp legato

Organ
p legato

7

rit.

rit.

rit.

Tune: BERGLUND; Robert Buckley Farlee © 1993 Robert Buckley Farlee, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Text: Julian of Norwich, adapt., Jean Janzen, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
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14

Assembly

1 Moth - er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright morn - ing
 2 Moth - er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing me your

mf

18

of this world. Cre - a - tor, source of ev - 'ry breath, you are my
 food of light, grain of new life, and grape of love, your ver - y

Anthem

God Our Father, Christ Our Mother

for SATB choir, 2 violins and organ

setting, Aaron David Miller

Flowing (♩ = 84)
molto legato

Organ *p*

with celestes

Vln. 1 *mp legato*

Vln. 2 *mp legato*

Tune: SCHMÜCKE DICH; Johann Crüger, 1578–1662
Text: Julian of Norwich, adapt. David L. Miller
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Musical score for measures 9 and 10. It features a vocal line with a melodic phrase, a piano accompaniment with a five-fingered arpeggiated pattern in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand, and a separate bass line.

11 1st time: Soprano and Altos only, *unis.*
2nd time: SATB

Musical score for measures 11, 12, and 13. Measure 11 includes vocal parts for Alto, Tenor, and Bass with lyrics: "God our fa - ther, Christ our moth - er, / Moth - er Je - sus, love's fair grace, / Moth - er Je - sus, love's fair". The Alto part is marked *p dolce* and the Tenor part is marked *p unis.* with a note "2nd time only". The piano accompaniment continues with the five-fingered arpeggiated pattern. Measure 12 shows the vocalists resting. Measure 13 continues the piano accompaniment.

Anthem

Sweet Light

for youth choir or solo, violin and organ

Aaron David Miller

Contemplatively (♩ = 106)

Violin 1

p

pp legato

9 Youth Choir or Solo

p

Sweet _____ light _____ from Je - sus' face, shin - ing clear,

p

Text: Julian of Norwich, adapt, David L. Miller
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Offertory Anthem

Chaconne

for SATB choir, 2 violins, and organ

Aaron David Miller

Gently, in 1 (♩ = 50)

Violin 1

Organ

p

p legato

semplice

7

9

sim.

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Hymn

Tree of Life

for assembly, organ, and opt. descant

setting, Aaron David Miller

With gravitas ($\text{♩} = 80$)

Organ

f legato

sim.

5

10

Tune: BEACH SPRING; *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

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Assembly

1 Tree of Life and awe-some mys - t'ry, in your death we are re - born; though you
 2 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum-bling though our steps may be; one with

f

¹⁹
 die in all of his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn. We re -
 you in joy and sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea. Light of