

# PRAYERS FOR OUR EARTH

## *A Suite for Choir and Piano*

Bret Hesla and Zach Busch

AUGSBURG CHORAL LIBRARY

Francis, *Laudato Si'*  
adapt. BH

Bret Hesla and Zach Busch

### I. You for Whom There Is No Adequate Name

**Adagio** (♩ = 66)

Piano *pp*

5 Soprano *pp misterioso*

Alto

Tenor *pp misterioso*

Bass

You for whom there is no ad - e - quate name: you are

\*Performance options vary. This piece may be performed as one continuous choral anthem, or any of the six sections may be performed as individual prayer responses. See composer's note on page 16 for more information.

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## II. Pour Out upon Us

Adagio (♩ = 66)

Soprano Alto

*p* 3 3

Pour out up - on us the pow - er of your love.

Tenor Bass

*p* 3 3

Piano

Adagio (♩ = 66)

*pp* *mp*\*

19

3 3

Pour out up - on us the pow - er of your love,

21

3

that we may pro - tect life and beau - ty,

\*Dix, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872.

# IV. Bring Healing to Our Lives

38  $\text{♩} = 72$

Piano

*mf*

40 Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

*Solo voice first time mf*

Bring

42 *tutti mf*

*add voices and harmonies each repeat*

*solo*

Bring heal - ing to our lives, that we pro -

heal - ing. *mf* Bring heal - ing to our lives, *solo*

# VI. We Thank You

With rubato (♩ = 63)

8va -----

68

Piano

*pp* *cresc.*

(8va)-----

70

*dim.* *pp*

♩ = 72

(8va)-----

72

*rit.* *pp*

(8va)-----

74

*cresc.*

## From the composers:

A perennial question inspires Bret’s songwriting for communities of faith: “What should we sing about that embodies what we know and believe?” We need songs that face up to what we all know about the climate emergency and our call to respond as people of faith. When Bret first read Pope Francis’s “A Prayer for Our Earth” as found in his 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si’*, he grabbed a piece of paper and scribbled a note to himself: “Set this to music.”

Bret set the whole text for SATB choir, dividing it into six segments as a compositional device to create different musical flavors. Zach took the SATB score and created a piano score around it, advancing and widening the stylistic themes and weaving everything together.

The power of this piece moved our congregations. Both communities developed collaborative programming between their climate-focused groups and worship planning groups to engage the church in conversation around climate change. We offered the piece in Sunday worship and gathered afterwards, using the music as a springboard for conversation and brainstorming deeper responses to climate change as congregations.

We encourage you to use your imagination with this piece. It can work to excerpt individual movements or pairs of movements and intersperse them with spoken prayer, psalm verses, or other scriptural or liturgical elements within a worship service. It can be presented in its entirety in worship, performance, or at a community climate justice event. Whatever its use, our strongest encouragement is to get others in your community involved in conversation around the piece and the text. Music opens us to hear things differently and resonates within us to move us to action.

—Bret Hesla and Zach Busch

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