

St. John's Truro: Spiritually Nurturing Songs

Curated by Jane Magrath

(where people submitted a particular version or singer of their song, I've included a note to that effect and linked to that version on YouTube. Where different people submitted different versions of the same song, I've included both versions. I have also made a playlist of all the pieces on Spotify – for those of you who use it. It's a public playlist – St. John's Collaboration. And this is the link:

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/6h3nsGoKuVnnZbbyvwp27I?si=xT_2OFE3Rae595yS1kicJA

I think all the songs are there except for John Denver's "healing time on earth." Spotify does not seem to have that one.)

A Place in the Choir <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sTKJUx18TL4>

Chosen by Paul Murphy

All Things Bright and Beautiful https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FT_oDqOEGpc

Chosen by Goldie Chisholm

All Through the Night (Peter, Paul & Mary) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wJ_CJ2Of1Wk

Chosen by Marjorie Murray: *This reminds me of the peaceful sleep of children after I tucked my girls into bed at bedtime.*

Be Still (The Fray) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vtp-p7qFI2I>

Chosen by Diane MacLeod

Blessed Assurance <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMLOIYWM03g>

Chosen by Goldie Chisholm

Breath of Heaven (Eden's Bridge) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VoUfvI8_eIQ

Chosen by Dorothy Tay: *This is the first version of it that I'd heard; I love it anytime. It speaks to me of our call to carry Jesus and birth him in our lives . . . and the terrifying awesomeness of that responsibility – and to know God's strength within us to live it.*

Breath of Heaven (Amy Grant) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7pDjbnvjtfM>

Chosen by Karen Ewing: *It is Mary's Song, "Breath of Heaven" that has the most effect on me. Courage has always been the trait long admired...perhaps reflected in the work with Veterans and the amazement of the self-sacrifice of many and of course of the One. There is another act of courage worthy of awe, I believe, the courage of a very young woman, who was chosen to carry the Son. The line that speaks to me daily is "Did you wonder, as you watch my face, if a wiser one should have had my place?"... "but, I offer all I am, for the mercy of your plan, help me be strong, help me be, help me, Breath of heaven." Incredible courage, inspiring faith.*

Breathe (Jonny Diaz) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hnjeMwxFuBA>

Chosen by Jane Magrath: *I tend to be someone who can race along, getting more and more frantic until I finally realize that it's been ages since I actually took a good, long breath and stopped for a moment. This song captures both the hurry-scurry AND the reminder to Breathe and to trust.*

By His Grace (Van Morrison) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwAxC8KqeXY>

Chosen by Lori Ramsey: *I think part of what gets me about this song is knowing the ups and downs of Van's life and struggle with addiction. The fact that he can still sing this with such confident joy is amazing to me. The whole album, "Hymns to the Silence," is worth the listen.*

Christ Has No Body Now But Yours (Porter's Gate) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7_E6gH9gLg

Chosen by Jane Magrath: *I am a big fan of the prayer-poem usually attributed to Teresa of Avila – expressing the idea that WE are meant to be the agents of Christ – the corporate body of Christ on earth. And I love Porter's Gate's musical version (although John Michael Talbot also has a really fine version).*

Count Your Blessings <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZECFq4BvRQ>

Chosen by Goldie Chisholm

Deep River (Paul Robeson) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NYrZLhhY8EQ>

Chosen by Joan MacDonald: *Why? His rich counter bass voice, as smooth as velvet, with spiritual longing for liberation. I loved this as a child and still do.*

El Condor Pasa (Simon & Garfunkel) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pey29CLID3I>

Chosen by Joan MacDonald: *A Peruvian folk song about the freedom to achieve. This appears a little later in my listening memories.*

El Shaddai (Amy Grant) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8txqw-u4V78>

Chosen by Wendy Carroll

For the Love of it All (Peter, Paul & Mary) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KBWJwQ8Nvco>

Chosen by Mary Feltmate: *especially the line "walking the thin line between fear and the call, One learns to bend, to finally depend on the love of it all." As someone who is naturally fearful, and knowing how rigid fear can make a person, this line is a reminder to trust in the flow of God's love*

Four Directions (Jan Phillips) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OAWgBC5Uv_U

Chosen by Lynn Rawlinson: *Down through the years we have done so much harm to First Nations peoples. Their healing continues. They have much to teach us. This song honors their spirituality. I love to march on the spot, turn and bow while listening or singing along.*

God is Great and People are Crazy (Bill Currington)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PKpQRjj_WbU

Chosen by Sandy Rudolph: *This song always makes me sing along "God is Great and People are Crazy;" life is life and it tells it like it is. It always gets me to say a little prayer for the old guy that's lonely and forgotten.*

Grateful For It All (Nimo /Daniel Nahmod) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sO2o98Zpzg8k>

Chosen by Lori Ramsey: *A compilation we have used in church for Thanksgiving. I still play it often, though I am also not a rap or hip-hop fan. Just a beautiful reminder of how gifted we are.*

Hallelujah (Kelly Mooney) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-31Fr3WWViI>
Chosen by Paul Murphy

Hallelujah (k.d. lang) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITOsIDiMd4E>
Chosen by Marjorie Murray: *It doesn't matter how broken or sad we are, God is always near to comfort and sustain us; we only need to ask.*
& by Judy MacKenzie

He <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLBNd5GZvxs>
Chosen by Prue Hansen

Healing Time on Earth (John Denver) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y0RjdONpqNc>
Chosen by Margaret Berry: *John Denver's voice to me is very soothing. When I was pregnant with my third child and after she was born, I rocked and played one of his albums over and over. With his beautiful, mellow voice, his love and understanding of nature and life shone through his songs. Although I like anything he has ever recorded, these three are a few of the more inspirational ones I enjoy (Healing Time, It's About Time, The Wings that Fly Us Home).*

Holy Now (Peter Mayer) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KiypaURysz4>
Chosen by Jane Magrath: *When I first heard this song, I thought – “Yes! That's it! That's a musical version of my own theology – my own sense that God is in everything and everything is God.” This is especially relevant for us, now – as we remain outside of the churches we tend to think of as sacred places and are encouraged to rediscover that every place is sacred.*

How Great Thou Art (Carrie Underwood) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ca1EEYayu4M>
Chosen by Melinda Tattie: *This was always one of my favorite hymns, I am not the best at prayer; however, I can sing (oh, not well; I can't carry a tune in a bucket, but I do it anyway!) and this is one of the songs I have always sung to the Lord when I don't have the right words to pray. When my sister suddenly passed away in 2013, fumbling through the funeral planning, Lori recommended this song, and I thought, yes, perfect! I didn't realize at the time I was losing this song for myself, because every time after, when I tried to sing it, or even listen to it, I could only think of my sister and weep. It took a lot of years, but I have this song back now for the most part, and am so grateful.*

How Great Thou Art (Daniel O'Donnell) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rP4HLdlqbTo>
Chosen by Linda and Bert Pratt

Humble and Kind (Tim McGraw) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=awzNHuGqoMc>
Chosen by Lori Ramsey: *I am not a country music fan, but this song (and particularly the way the video shows the beauty of all faiths and peoples) always moves me to tears. It reminds me of the things I would like my children to say they learned from me when I am gone.*

I Believe <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xdCaAZGThy8>
Chosen Prue Hansen

I want to Stroll Over Heaven with You Some Sweet Day (Alan Jackson)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z7RhT1GxbiU>

Chosen by Marjorie Murray: *I am looking forward to strolling over heaven with my family some sweet day. At the morning of the rapture we will stand anew.*

I Will Follow (with an interview – Kristene DiMarco)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_IUM08nFpHM

Chosen by Lynn Rawlinson: *This one is an interview which includes the song; it's not the big production like "It is Well" but lower-key with one accompanying guitar, and, in my opinion, worth watching.*

In Christ Alone (acapella version) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjiiF83q7G0&app=desktop>

Chosen by Judy MacKenzie: *I am filled with a profound sense of peace and love when I hear it.*

Is He Worthy (Andrew Peterson) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OIahc83Kvp4>

Chosen by Diane MacLeod

& by Mary Feltmate: *And this one I stumbled on last year and the words, the melody, the whole structure of it, moved me to tears. Do you feel the world is broken? We do. But do you know that all the dark can't keep the light from getting through? WE DO.*

It's About Time (John Denver) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2rPW6oM_7dl

Chosen by Margaret Berry

It Is No Secret What God Can Do (Anne Murray)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L11qZIME3EQ>

Chosen by Patricia Ramsey

It is No Secret (Jim Reeves) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2EeF6jpTUws>

Chosen by Linda and Bert Pratt

It is Well (Kristene DiMarco) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T0dIWJ4t4Jg>

Chosen by Lynn Rawlinson: *I love the energy and freedom of expression of the youth.*

Jealous of the Angels (Donna Taggart) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0n67dSG35L4>

Chosen by Hazel Sherren: *At my recent sister-in-law's funeral, a set of 16 yr old twins sang "Jealous of the Angels" by Donna Taggart. Given the tragedies we have experienced in the past two months, I thought it might be fitting.*

Less of Me (Statler Brothers) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x5V5Vc1vVUk>

Chosen by Marjorie Murray: *Reminds me to think a little more of others and a little less of self.*

Meet You in Church on Sunday Morning (Owen Mac)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p9ONJmwwZNs>

Chosen by Linda and Bert Pratt

- Morning Has Broken* (Cat Stevens) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e0TInLOJuUM>
 Chosen by Dorothy Tay: *Loved it way before the church included it. Reminds me especially now of appreciating the gift of each new day and to look at all the wonder in it.*
- Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel* (Sugarland) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vatvUREAPY0>
 Chosen by Melinda Tattrie: *I listen to this much more than just Advent, but I am a rebel with my music – ha ha!*
- One Tin Soldier* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VGY9k5PeoQA>
 Chosen by Wendy Carroll
- People Get Ready* (Beck and Stewart) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yC_j_dzkaVE
 Chosen by Mary Feltmate: *My teenage son introduced me to this on a road trip the 2 of us took at the end of his grade 12 year. We cranked up the volume and put it on repeat, and as we drove along, the sun broke through clouds with those shafts of light touching the ground. Every part of that memory is filled with joy and love. And "you don't need no ticket; you just get on board."*
- Pretty Woman* (Roy Orbison) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XGIKIKt9-k8>
 Chosen by Faye Keddy: *Every time I hear that song, it takes me right back to my high school dances. Also The Hippy Hippy Shake. On Mondays, Friday night school dances seemed so far away. Such great memories.*
- Rise Again* (Rankins) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4C5IoSnPEIY>
 Chosen by Cathy Boudreau: *Raylene was a family friend and often rocked our daughter to sleep singing.....*
- River Wash Over Me* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c0Am96tYuVo>
 Chosen by Paul Murphy
- Scarlet Ribbons* (Harry Belafonte) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5611V_V_2mE
 Chosen by Joan MacDonald: *Why? How can you explain the supernatural (paternal or maternal) forces which fulfill a little daughter's prayer for something she desperately desires?*
- Stones and Sea* (Eden's Bridge) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mHLcJ0aXR2g>
 Chosen by Dorothy Tay: *We overlook things that are right in front of us.*
- The Call* (Regina Spektor) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNsQewlFtEs>
 Chosen by Sarah Slater
- The Lonely Shepherd* (Zamfir) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4lZxCJwg-Wo>
 Chosen by Joan MacDonald: *I used his records to relax while I worked full time and took 4 courses each semester in grad school. During that time I attended a live concert by Zamfir, fell asleep during the first selection and awoke at intermission.*

The Prayer (Celine Dion & Andrea Bocelli) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8DGuvab_Lc
Chosen by Cathy Boudreau: *especially during all of the recent sadness in our community.*

The Prayer (Celine Dion & Josh Groban) <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=idtNxZYnxIw>
Chosen by Judy MacKenzie: *This song fills me with tranquility and makes me feel as if I am suspended in another realm.*

The Wings that Fly Us Home (John Denver) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v4BANicOw8U>
Chosen by Margaret Berry

This Island Earth (The Nylons) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A9FwolBqHbg>
Chosen by Adele Stokoe: *This song always makes me happy. It highlights the vastness of the universe and reminds us how earth, our island home, is just a tiny speck in the starry ocean. It has, to me, a lovely way of emphasizing the importance of looking after our island home. "It's a Wonderful World" and this one go hand-in-hand for me. The Nylons song has a broad scope on the universe and its beauty and Louis Armstrong reminds us to cherish what is right here with us.*

Time to Say Goodbye <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vEcIHyL3JBs>
AND/OR <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M3mdHmhI3cs>
Chosen by Hazel Sherren: *I cannot decide which of the two versions of Time to Say Goodbye is my favorite so I submit the version by Il Divo and the duet by Andrea Bocelli and Sarah Brightman.*

We Got a Groovy Kind of Love <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o09nZwrejZ8>
Chosen by Faye Keddy: *When Doug and I were "courting" we enjoyed "We Got a Groovy Kind of Love." Boy, are we ever old!!*

Were You There (Cash & Carter Version) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wvmM6zoPGGI>
Chosen by Melinda Tattrie: *I can listen to this over and over, and often do. The simplicity of the lyrics combined with these voices is perfection to me on every level.*

What a Wonderful World (Louis Armstrong)
<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=fnyMzZiKfkY&feature=share>
Chosen by Adele Stokoe: *It's very easy to get discouraged by the constant barrage of information in the news of disasters, sadness, poverty, injustices, stupidity, the list goes on and on. When I hear this song, I'm reminded that God created a beautiful world and works in harmony with Mother Nature to provide us with a stellar oasis on which to spend our allotted amount of time. Louis Armstrong sings this song with such conviction and joy that I can't help but smile and be thankful every time I hear it. It is a wonderful world and he has the perfect way to remind us of the positive at work every day which is so easy to take for granted.*

What if God Was One of Us (Joan Osborne) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPPmqwnVBXo>
Chosen by Jane Magrath: *I heard this song many years ago; and I have continued to love it and muse about it – I think it encourages us to see the God in everyone – to know that God IS "one of us" in all our ordinary, everyday, struggling humanity glory.*

Will the Circle Be Unbroken <https://youtu.be/7bRJLkNqNXI>

Chosen by Carol McNutt: *I think I would have chosen something totally different had this exercise happened a few weeks ago . . . before the massacre in our neighbouring community; before the little toddler in Truro went missing; before the helicopter went down killing its six military personnel; before the Corona virus pandemic, and before the Snowbird was killed on her mission to bring Canadians together during trying times. As a result of all this, the contemporary hymn I have chosen now is "Will The Circle Be Unbroken." The lyrics are meant to be soothing . . . "Will the circle be unbroken, by and by Lord by and by. There's a better home awaiting, in the sky Lord, in the sky." The circle is such a powerful symbol . . . a symbol of protection, inclusion and wholeness. It's a comforting symbol and one that is so needed as a result of the recent events that have shattered so many lives . . . so many circles have been broken. Ordinarily I would take comfort in the lyrics of this old gospel tune but at the moment, I struggle with its message. There is a lot to process of late . . . the massacre in particular was devastating on so many levels. I had a difficult time trying to sort out my feelings about it all and it wasn't until I worked through your exercise of choosing a contemporary hymn that I was able to fully understand what has been troubling so much. My faith has been temporarily rocked and I long for the balance to be restored. I long for the time that I can believe that the circle will indeed be unbroken by and by. When thinking about what hymn I would choose, it was the first time since the killing spree that I was able to cry. I gained an understanding of the situation and with that, I hope the ability to move forward to restore a balance.*

You Raise Me Up (Josh Groban) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJxrX42WcjQ>

Chosen by Cathy Boudreau

You Say (Lauren Daigle) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZvKJ1kK8g>

Chosen by Linda Walker