

***HYMN OF INVITATION**

“God Loves Us in Mysterious Ways”

Edward Moran, 2015, tune: ST. FLAVIAN (#166)

God loves us in mysterious ways
beyond all sin or shame;
rich blessings for our weary days
as love dares speak its name.

More light and truth have yet to break
from God’s eternal Word;
sure-hearted and with hope we take
new leaps of faith unblurred.

We take a chance on God, and fall
to higher depths of love;
In faith and flesh we heed God’s call
to open doors above.

Bind up the wounds of shun and stray
for prodigals new found
and set us on our homeward way
unbullied and unbound.

“Come forth!” from deep, confining tombs
of gender, class, and race
engendered here: wide open rooms
that offer pride of place.

A place where friends are swell and true
and lives and loves increased;
till all who come are welcomed to
the Lamb’s own marriage feast.

***HYMN OF BLESSING**

“God of Queer, Transgressive Spaces”

Edward Moran, 2007, tune: CONVERSE (#465)

God of queer, transgressive spaces;
lavish manger, empty tomb;
wine-dark loaves and precious graces,
bend our barren lives to bloom.
God’s own deviance is Jesus:
born of virgin, Word made flesh;
dead and buried, still he rises!
What abnormal worldliness!

Thanks to God for grave disorder:
shroud and sorrow fall undone;
Easter garments, at His order,
swaddle Her beloved One.
Brothers bind ye to each other,
sisters, too, and have no shame.
Sing with God, our Father-Mother
love that dares now speak its name.

Stone walls shall not be our prison,
iron bars shall not encage.
Christ transfigured, Christ now risen:
where the frenzy, where the rage?
With our unbound God confessing:
turn all fracture into praise,
benediction into blessing,
fabulous and full of days.