



**Music Sunday**  
**March 26, 2023**

## *Missa Gaia*

Composed by

Paul Winter (1939- ), Kim Oler, and members of the  
Paul Winter Consort: Jim Scott, Paul Halley, Oscar Castro-Neves  
Pauline Oliver, Conductor

"Missa Gaia," or "Earth Mass," is dedicated to Saint Francis, the patron saint of ecology, and celebrates the entire Earth as a sacred place. "Gaia," is the Greek word for "Mother Earth," used by two prominent scientists whose "Gaia hypothesis" was widely known when this ecumenical world-music version of the traditional mass was composed over three decades ago. Commissioned by the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in Manhattan, the first performance took place in 1981.

The most striking departure from the classical mass is the use of "singers" seldom heard indoors: an Alaskan tundra wolf, a humpback whale, and harp seal pups. You will hear their haunting voices over our sound system. The soaring saxophone of Mike Leonard takes its cue from the whale and wolf, while piano, guitar, and drums provide rhythms from West Africa and Brazil. The choir, too, at times echoes the music of whale and wolf, but also delivers a rousing gospel version of the Beatitudes.

## **First Parish "Music Sunday" Choir**

### **Sopranos**

Ann Gordon  
Lee Ann Cohen  
Leah Levine  
Amy Meneely  
Lucia Thompson  
Nathalie Thompson  
M. Jane Williamson

### **Altos**

Ann Drouilhet  
Kathleen Lang  
Molly Faulkner  
Kathy Heckscher  
Debbie Levens  
Emily Mlcak  
Lucy Pease  
Autumn Wibright

### **Tenors**

Malcolm Astley  
Jennifer Christian  
Joan Shear  
David Siktberg  
Jay Woodruff

### **Basses**

Charlie Anderson  
Jim Kitendaugh

## **Orchestra**

Piano  
Organ  
Drums/Percussion  
Soprano Saxophone  
Cello  
English Horn/Oboe  
Guitar  
Bass  
Tympani

James Haupt  
Bonnie Anderson  
Dan Foote  
Mike Leonard  
Cynthia Forbes  
Joe Halko  
Catherine O'Kelly  
Charles McCauley  
Sarah Tenney

**Tech:** Ted Pease

## *Missa Gaia*

### 1) *Canticle of Brother Sun*

Text: St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of ecology.  
*Book of Job* 12:7-8, F.S.Pierpont, Paul Winter  
Music: Jim Scott and Paul Winter

All praise be yours through Brother Sun,  
All praise be yours through Sister Moon.  
By Mother Earth my Lord be praised,  
By Brother Mountain, Sister Sea.  
Through Brother Wind and Brother Air,  
Through Sister Water, Brother Fire;  
The stars above give thanks to thee;  
All praise to those who live in peace.

All praise be yours through Brother Wolf,  
All praise be yours through Sister Whale.  
By nature's song my Lord be praised,  
By Brother Eagle, Sister Loon.  
Through Brother Tiger, Sister Seal,  
Through Sister Flower, Brother Tree.  
Let creatures all give thanks to thee.  
All praise to those who live in peace.

Ask of the beasts and they shall teach you  
The beauty of the earth.  
Ask of the trees [...winds...flowers...]

## 2) *Kyrie*

Text: Greek, 3rd Century  
Music: Paul Halley, Paul Winter  
"Singers": Alaskan Tundra Wolf  
Cantor: Jay Woodruff

*Kyrie Eleison.* [ Lord have mercy.]

## 3) *Beatitudes*

Text: Matthew 5:3-12 and Luke 6:20-23  
Music: Jim Scott

*Gospel singer: Jim Kitendaugh*

Rejoice, rejoice and be exceedingly glad,  
For great is your reward in heaven.

In Thy kingdom, O Lord remember us,  
When Thou comest into Thy kingdom.

Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,  
For they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Bless are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness,  
For they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

And blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
For they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted  
For righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when some shall revile you and persecute you  
And say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake.  
Great, great, great is your reward; Great is your reward in heaven.

#### 4) *Sanctus and Benedictus*

Text: Traditional Latin  
Music : Paul Halley, Paul Winter  
"Singer": Humpback Whale, recorded off Bermuda

The Brazilian *baião* guitar rhythm was contributed by Oscar Castro-Neves.

*Sanctus Dominus Sabaoth.  
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.  
Osanna in excelsis.  
Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.*

[Transl.: Holy Lord God of Hosts.  
Heaven and Earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.]

#### 5) *Agnus Dei*

Text: Traditional Latin  
Music: Jim Scott, Paul Winter  
"Singers": Harp Seal Pups

The English translation of "*Agnus Dei*" is "Lamb of God". In 1909, a medical missionary, when speaking with Eskimos in Labrador, decided to translate the phrase "*Agnus Dei*", to mean "seal pups". The sounds were recorded near the Magdalen Islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, misere nobis.  
Dona Nobis Pacem.*

[Transl.: Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Grant us peace.]

**6) *The Blue Green Hills of Earth***

Text and music: Kim Oler  
Choral setting: Paul Halley

*Gospel singer: Amy Meneely*

For the earth, forever turning,  
For the skies, for ev'ry sea,  
In our joy we sing, returning  
Home to our blue green hills of earth.  
For the mountains, hills, and pastures,  
In their silent majesty,  
For all life, for all of Nature,  
Sing we our joyful praise to thee.  
For the sun, for rain and thunder,  
For the land that makes us free,  
For the stars, for all the heavens,  
Sing we our joyful praise to thee.

*The Congregation is invited to join the choir in singing the last verse:*

For the earth, forever turning,  
For the skies, for ev'ry sea,  
In our joy we sing, returning  
Home to our blue green hills of earth.

## 7) Let Us Depart in Peace

Reprise of "Canticle of Brother Sun"

All praise be yours through Brother Sun,  
All praise be yours through Sister Moon.  
By Mother Earth my Lord be praised,  
By Brother Mountain, Sister Sea.  
Through Brother Wind and Brother Air,  
Through Sister Water, Brother Fire;  
The stars above give thanks to thee;  
All praise to those who live in peace.

All praise be yours through Brother Wolf,  
All praise be yours through Sister Whale.  
By nature's song my Lord be praised,  
By Brother Eagle, Sister Loon.  
Through Brother Tiger, Sister Seal,  
Through Sister Flower, Brother Tree.  
Let creatures all give thanks to thee.  
All praise to those who live in peace.

Ask of the beasts and they shall teach you  
The beauty of the earth.  
Ask of the trees [...winds...flowers...]

*The Congregation is invited to join the choir in singing:*

For the Beauty of the Earth, sing, oh sing today.  
Of the sky and of our birth, sing, oh sing always.  
Nature, human and divine, all around us lies.  
Source of all, to thee we raise grateful hymns of praise.

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