



MISSION & MINISTRY SUNDAY 2018

The worship resources that complement the movie include a new hymn with text by Laurie Gauger-Hested, tune by Sarah Lambrecht, and musical arrangements by Jeremy S. Bakken.

The poet shares some of her thinking behind the hymn text.

Thoughts from the Poet on: “We Are Sent by the Lord”

There are many wonderful hymns that clearly show our sin, the gospel, and our Savior. The cross of Christ remains clear and prominent in the refrain of this text; the stanzas touch on the following underlying spiritual themes.

Stanza 1: I know that sometimes I can be clumsy and glib when sharing the law and gospel. I can share them well only when the Spirit removes from my heart any apathy or secret disdain for lost souls “in dark and distant corners of the world,” and instead fills me with compassion. They have not believed because they have not heard. That’s the truth of it, and that’s heartbreaking.

Stanza 2: Like Paul at Mars Hill, I need to know where to begin. Maybe “Without Jesus, you’re going to hell” is not the best place to start when I have a spiritual discussion with a 21st-century citizen of the world, someone who wants to live a meaningful life, but is inherently distrustful of religion and has no idea that the missing piece in their life is the God-man Jesus.

Stanza 3: Who knows how many souls, who were once part of the family, have left through the back door of the church because they were hurt by me. By my silence or my insensitive words. By my fear of talking honestly about difficult issues. By my application of law when the situation called for gospel. By my flat, anemic speech that reduced the beauty of our Savior to a logical proposition, a formula.

Stanza 4: While the message here seems simple—Jesus wants no one to perish—it’s so important. I don’t want to be arrogant or condescending, *secretly happy* that some are “lost” while I am “saved.” Jesus’ hands were scarred for every child of earth. I’m just another sinner. But thankfully there’s room for every sinner in Jesus’ heart.

Musical resources for the hymn along with other resources for Bible study and other opportunities are available at: <https://welscongregationalservices.net/totheendsoftheearth/>