

## A SACRED SONG FOR HOLY WEEK/ EASTER



OPEN TO ALL HYMN AND SONG WRITERS

Prize \$500

Honourable Mentions will be named



### ENTRY RULES

The sacred song must:

- explore the imagery and language of the Jesus section of **A Song of Faith**, focusing particularly on the crucifixion and/or resurrection of Jesus
- be suitable for singing during congregational worship in Holy Week and/or the Easter season 2013 and beyond
- be original (text and tune, and may be the composition of one person or of a team), aside from any direct quotation from or elaboration upon language from **A Song of Faith**
- use inclusive and preferably expansive language, i.e., use a variety of ways to address God
- be submitted by January 7, 2013

### FINE PRINT

Songs or hymns which will work well in a variety of cultural and musical contexts will be given priority in the judging.

Entries will be judged by a blind process involving three judges selected by Music United. Their decision will be made by February 4 and is final.

Only one winning entry is anticipated, but the judges may decide to split the prize among several co-winners. If they cannot agree on a winner, for whatever reason, the judges reserve the right to not name a winner.

The sacred song selected will be announced publicly after the winner is notified. The author and/or composer will retain copyright of the entry with the understanding that The United Church of Canada has the right to use the entry throughout the 2013 calendar year within the denomination, including being posted on the Music United and The United Church of Canada websites as a free downloadable PDF—with performance uses restricted to United Church worship.

Each entrant will receive notification of the selected song and a copy of it. Submissions not chosen will be destroyed.

### HOW TO SUBMIT ENTRIES

Entrants may submit more than one hymn. Each music file should be e-mailed as a PDF *without* the entrant's name but attached to an e-mail detailing the entrant's name, address, telephone number, and the title of the hymn. All entries will be acknowledged within two weeks of receipt.

Please send entries and correspondence to Maria-Elena Oliva  
moliva@united-church.ca.



**THANKS TO ALL WHO CONSIDER OUR INVITATION!**



We sing of Jesus,  
a Jew,  
born to a woman in poverty  
in a time of social upheaval  
and political oppression.  
He knew human joy and sorrow.  
So filled with the Holy Spirit was he  
that in him people experienced the presence of God  
among them.  
We sing praise to God incarnate.

Jesus announced the coming of God's reign—  
a commonwealth not of domination  
but of peace, justice, and reconciliation.  
He healed the sick and fed the hungry.  
He forgave sins and freed those held captive  
by all manner of demonic powers.  
He crossed barriers of race, class, culture, and gender.  
He preached and practised unconditional love—  
love of God, love of neighbour,  
love of friend, love of enemy—  
and he commanded his followers to love one another  
as he had loved them.

Because his witness to love was threatening,  
those exercising power sought to silence Jesus.  
He suffered abandonment and betrayal,  
state-sanctioned torture and execution.  
He was crucified.

But death was not the last word.  
God raised Jesus from death,  
turning sorrow into joy,  
despair into hope.  
We sing of Jesus raised from the dead.  
We sing hallelujah.

By becoming flesh in Jesus,  
God makes all things new.  
In Jesus' life, teaching, and self-offering,  
God empowers us to live in love.  
In Jesus' crucifixion,  
God bears the sin, grief, and suffering of the world.  
In Jesus' resurrection,  
God overcomes death.  
Nothing separates us from the love of God.

The Risen Christ lives today,  
present to us and the source of our hope.  
In response to who Jesus was  
and to all he did and taught,  
to his life, death, and resurrection,  
and his continuing presence with us through the Spirit,  
we celebrate him as  
the Word made flesh,  
the one in whom God and humanity are perfectly joined,  
the transformation of our lives,  
the Christ.

