

Edgar F. Girtain IV

Three Celebratory Hymns (2014)

For SATB Chorus

1. LISTEN! WISDOM CALLS US

Angier Brock

Edgar F. Girtain IV

f

1. Lis ten! Wis - dom calls us. Hear how un - der - stand - ing lifts her voice a - bove the nois - y cross - roads of the cit - y:
2. First in all cre - a - tion, dai - ly in God's pres - ence wis - dom played. As springs be - gan to spar - kle with fresh wa - ters,
3. Je - sus, be our wis - dom. Live in us, our way, our truth, our life. When we lapse in - to care - less - ness, for - give us.

f

p

"Re - cieve my teach - ings, fin - er than pure sil - ver. Pur - sue my way, a bet - ter choice than gold.
As hills took on their heights, and fields their bor - ders, as seas re - ceived their lim - its, skies their lights,
When we grow wea - ry, be our in - spi - ra - tion. In all we seek to do, may grace in - crease

p *mis.*

f

My words are wor - thi - er than cost - ly ru - bies, from my lips a world of truth is told." A - men
Fish and birds knew life, and hu - man crea - tures, then God re - joiced, and wis - dom took de - light.
un - til your wis - dom spreads through all cre - a - tion, and heals our hearts, and mends the earth with peace.

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2. CHRIST! WHO WAS BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN

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p

1. Christ who was be - fore the world be - gan, Christ with God as all things came to be,
 2. Christ, we are your peo - ple gath - ered here, hol - ding earth's near fu - ture in our hands.
 3. Christ the hope of gen - er - a - tions past, Christ as yet our com - pass, star, and guide,

f

Christ in eve - ry a - tom eve - ry span of love and light a - cross e - ter - ni - ty: You _____
 Needs are great, but God's News draws us near with dreams of jus - tice love's sweet prov - d - dence. Come _____
 Christ, who sum - mons us to feast and fast by which the great - est love is mul - ti - plied: You _____

— took on our hu - man - i - ty. You walked the shores of gal - i - lee
 — set our hearts at li - ber ty. In this, our year of ju - bi - lee
 — pour out grace un - spar - ing - ly. You ask us to live dar - ing - ly

ff *p*

You healed the blind and set the cap - tive free — and still you walk with us through his - to - ry. A - men.
 Help us to serve, in peace and con - fi - dence as faith - ful stew - ards of your New Cove' - nant
 Teach us to an - swer with a clear "A - men!" and through your church, may you be glor - i - fied.

ff *p*

3. GOD, WE GATHER

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1. God, we ga - ther as your peo - ple called to ho - ly time and space, danc - ing in the sa - cred sto - ry
 2. As your crea - ture bless'd with mem' - ry we re - call sal - vat - ion's hymn, tunes of hope for all the age - s,
 3. Yet great fear is all a - round us. Greed and rage leave dread - ful scars. Lack of shar - ing and com - pass - ion
 4. God, cre - a - tor most a - maz - ing, Je - sus, heal - er, tea - cher friend, Ho - ly Spir - it stir - ing in us

p

of de - liv - er - ance and grace. O - ver land and wa - ters, far and wide your name is heard
 words of light that nev - er dims: with her tim - brel danc - ing, Da - vid play - ing on his lyre,
 forge de - struc - tive pris - on bars. In the land of hon - ey bring us heal - ing right our wrongs,
 dreams of peace on grace - filled wind, All your time is ho - ly, all of earth is sa - cred, too,

car - ried by your sons and daugh - ters trust - ing your life giv - ing word. A - men
 sav - ior Je - sus, born of Mar - y, wor - shipped by the an - gels choir.
 move us with bright notes of prom - ise, help us wise - ly use your songs.
 all your chil - dren are be - lov - ed. Help us know them, one with you.