

Our Wildest Imagining

Version 2 for TTBB chorus, organ and brass quintet

Original music by

Dominick DiOrio

with a libretto compiled by the composer
out of sermons, stories, and sayings by the

Right Reverend V. Gene Robinson

Our Wildest Imagining

Music by **Dominick DiOrio**
with a libretto compiled by the composer out
of sermons, stories, and sayings by the
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Version 2 for TTBB chorus, organ, and brass quintet
CHORAL / ORGAN SCORE

Duration: 7 minutes

January 2025

About the project

Our Wildest Imagining was commissioned by a consortium of organizations, partners, and friends across the United States to honor the **Right Reverend V. Gene Robinson**.

Reverend Gene Robinson was elected the Episcopal Church's first openly gay bishop in 2003. After serving 28 years in the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire, he was elected bishop on June 7th and served as the ninth Episcopal Bishop until 2013. Robinson is bishop-in-residence at St. Thomas' Parish, Washington, D.C., which in 2023 announced the creation of an endowment fund for community outreach in his honor. He also is part of the worship team at Washington National Cathedral, where he occasionally preaches and celebrates.



Robinson became New Hampshire's diocesan bishop in March 2004 and served until 2013. When he resigned, or retired, as bishop, he became a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress and then served as vice president of religion and senior pastor at the Chautauqua Institution. He retired in 2021. He lives in Washington with Boxer, a dachshund he adopted during the pandemic; he is the father of two grown daughters and has two granddaughters.

Cover photo

"Multi-colored broken mirror décor" by Alexander Grey. Accessed on January 22, 2025:
<https://www.pexels.com/photo/multicolored-broken-mirror-decor-1407278/>
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Lead Commissioners

All Saints Church (Pasadena)

The Rev. Tim Rich, Priest-in-Charge
The Rev. Canon Susan Russell, Associate Priest
Dr. Weicheng Zhao, Director of Music, Organist-Choirmaster

Chautauqua Institution

Joshua Stafford, Director of Sacred Music and Organist

Christ Church Cathedral (Indianapolis)

The Very Rev. Gray Lesesne, Dean & Rector
Dr. Stephen White, Interim Director of Music
Bruno Sandes, Director of Coro Latinoamericano

Gay Men's Chorus of Washington & GenOUT Youth Chorus (Washington, DC)

Dr. Thea Kano, Artistic Director & C. Paul Heins, Director

St. Luke's Episcopal Church (Atlanta)

The Rev. Winnie Varghese, Rector
Matthew Michael Brown, HonRSCM, Director of Music

St. Paul's Episcopal Church (Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia)

The Rev. Eric P. Hungerford, Rector
Dr. Andrew Kotylo, Director of Music and Organist

St. Thomas' Parish (Washington, DC)

The Rev. Lisa Ahuja, Rector

The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine (New York)

The Very Reverend Patrick Malloy, Dean
Kent Tritle, Director of Cathedral Music

Washington National Cathedral

The Very Rev. Randolph Marshall Hollerith, Dean
Dr. Thomas Sheehan, Cathedral Organist & Interim Director of Music

Friends of Bishop Gene Robinson

About the text

Libretto compiled by the composer out of words from sermons, stories, and sayings by the Right Reverend Gene Robinson, as well as quotations from the 27th Psalm.

Be held, my friends! A new day is dawning!

We are called to face the humble truth,
if we are to rise to the challenges of the future.

Be still, my friends! A first fire is lighting!

We are called to speak a calming word,
if we are to quell the storms which rage in our midst.

Be loved, my friends! A spring seed is sprouting!

We are called to joy against impossible odds,
if we but hold in our hearts the certainty of God's love.

My friends, the psalmist proclaims:

*The Lord is my light and my salvation:
whom then shall I fear?*

*The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?*

Behold, my friends, a new day is dawning,

and we will rise to the challenges of the future,
because fighting for justice is always dangerous business.

Behold, my friends, a first fire is lighting,

and we will quell the storms which rage in our midst,
because we were not made to simply vanish in the night.

Behold, my friends, a spring seed is sprouting,

and we will hold the certainty of God's love in our hearts,
because they tried to bury us without knowing that we were seeds.

My friends, the psalmist affirms:

*Now my head is lifted up
above my enemies all around me,*

*And I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;*

I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

My dear, beloved friends, let us sing this miraculous promise:

When one is certain of God's love,
there's no end to what one can bear.

I am love, and you are love, and God is love...
and we are all loved beyond our wildest imagining.

Commissioned by a consortium of organizations, partners, and friends across the United States
to honor the Right Reverend V. Gene Robinson.

Our Wildest Imagining

Version 2 Choral Score
for TTBB chorus and organ
(with optional brass quintet)

Libretto compiled by the composer from Psalm 27
and from sermons, stories, and sayings by
the Right Reverend V. Gene Robinson

Dominick DiOrio
(b. 1984)

Bright, with fire ♩ = 63-69

Organ *f* *mp*

Pedals

6

mp *mf*

11

mp *f*

15 **A**

f Be held, my friends! A new__ day is dawn - ing! Be held, my

f Be held, my friends! A new__ day is dawn - ing! Be held, my

f Be held, my friends! A new__ day is dawn - ing! Be held, my

f Be held, my friends! A new__ day is dawn - ing! Be held, my

f *mf*

21 **B**

mp friends! A new__ day is dawn - ing! We are called to face the hum - ble

mp friends! A new__ day is dawn - ing! We are called to face the hum - ble

mp friends! A new__ day is dawn - ing! We are called to face the hum - ble

mp friends! A new__ day is dawn - ing! We are called to face the hum - ble

p

27

C

truth, ___ if we are to rise to the chal-len-ges of the fu - ture.

truth, ___ if we are to rise to the chal-len-ges of the fu - ture.

truth, ___ if we are to rise to the chal-len-ges of the fu - ture.

truth, ___ if we are to rise to the chal-len-ges of the fu - ture.

mp

p

32

p

35

D

f Be still, my friends! A first fire is light - ing!

f Be still, my friends! A first fire is light - ing!

f Be still, my friends! A first fire is light - ing!

f Be still, my friends! A first fire is light - ing!

f *mf* 3 3 3

40

E

mp Be still, my friends! A first fire is light - ing! We are called to

mp Be still, my friends! A first fire is light - ing! We are called to

mp Be still, my friends! A first fire is light - ing! We are called to

mp Be still, my friends! A first fire is light - ing! We are called to

p 3 3 3

speak a calm - ing word, if we are to quell the storms which rage in our midst.

speak a calm - ing word, if we are to quell the storms which rage in our midst.

speak a calm - ing word, if we are to quell the storms which rage in our midst.

speak a calm - ing word, if we are to quell the storms which rage in our midst.

mp

p

54

G

Be loved, my friends! A spring_ seed is sprout - ing!

Be loved, my friends! A spring_ seed is sprout - ing!

Be loved, my friends! A spring_ seed is sprout - ing!

Be loved, my friends! A spring_ seed is sprout - ing!

59

Be loved my friends! A spring_ seed is sprout - ing!

Be loved my friends! A spring_ seed is sprout - ing!

Be loved, my friends! A spring_ seed is sprout - ing!

Be loved, my friends! A spring_ seed is sprout - ing!

64 **H**

Four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "We are called to joy a - gainst im - poss - i - ble odds,". The piano part features triplet patterns in the right hand and chords in the left hand. Dynamics include *mp* and *mf*.

68

Four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "if we but hold in our hearts the cer - tain - ty of God's love...". The piano part continues with triplet patterns and chords. Dynamics include *mp* and *f*.

72



Solo tenor or baritone
f < *fp* < *f* *tr*

My friends, the psalm - ist pro - claims: The

ff *p*

78

J Same tempo ♩ = ♩

Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion: whom then shall I fear?

OPTIONAL with Congregation

The Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion: whom then shall I fear? _____

Tutti

_____ The Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion: whom then shall I fear? _____

The Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion: whom then shall I fear? _____

_____ The Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion: whom then shall I fear? _____

K

(Choir only)

_____ The Lord is the strong - hold of my life; of whom shall I be a - fraid? _____

(Choir only)

_____ The Lord is the strong - hold of my life; of whom shall I be a - fraid? _____

Note from the composer

As a young gay man growing up in the Catholic Church, I often felt that there was no place for me. I went off to college in 2002 not sure about what my life would be, not sure about how I would navigate the many paths ahead of me, and not sure if I should continue to spend my life as a pale reflection of my inner self, a “black and white” version of the me who could exist in true color.

I remember fondly the news in 2003 of Gene’s election as the first openly gay bishop in the Episcopal Church. Suddenly, I felt like there was hope. If one of the major Christian denominations in the world could welcome him as a faith leader, surely there were paths for my own life that I had not yet imagined.

When Michael Pettry approached me in the Summer of 2024 with the seed of an idea to honor Gene with a work, I jumped at the opportunity. While Gene didn’t know it at the time, he provided a strong model for me about how to live openly a life of truth and pride. Indeed, he has made the point countless times that we are loved beyond our wildest imagining. What a joy it was to spend time in his many texts and turns of phrase, as I drew upon them to create this libretto, this distilled version of Gene’s essence for this work! ***Our Wildest Imagining*** is ebullient and extroverted, propulsive and proud, full of fire for the energy, majesty, and mystery of God’s love.

My fervent hope for this work is that it celebrates the man who has left a legacy of hope and possibility for so many in this strange, beautiful, fractured world.

- Dominick DiOrio
January 2025

About the composer

Dominick DiOrio is a conductor and composer who has been recognized with The American Prize in both Choral Composition and Choral Performance. He is chair of the choral conducting department at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where he leads the new music chamber chorus NOTUS. In July 2020, he became the 14th Artistic Director & Conductor of the Mendelssohn Chorus of Philadelphia.

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