

Creative Music: Open the eyes of my heart

Easter 2, Year B

By Beth Barnett

This is a creative music engagement for use during worship time, using the song 'Open the eyes of my heart Lord' plus additional verses.

You will need:	Words on screen, including extra verses (see below)
Time required:	4-5 minutes

Use...

Open the eyes of my heart Lord

Paul Baloche

1997 *Integrity's Hosanna! Music* (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing (*Integrity Music* [DC Cook])

CCLI Song #2298355

Listen

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wutmEjdbedE>

Play

<https://www.praisecharts.com/songs/details/1724/open-the-eyes-of-my-heart-sheet-music/piano-vocal-lead-sheet>

Or Easy version

<https://www.musicnotes.com/sheetmusic/mtd.asp?ppn=MN0052648>

Or Easy guitar version

<https://tabs.ultimate-guitar.com/tab/sonicflood/open-the-eyes-of-my-heart-chords-364369>

Introduction

As we gather to worship and listen for God's words, we recognize that it is God who calls us together, who gathers us in the name of Jesus, and who gives the Spirit to help us, unite us, gift us with what we need to serve and opens our eyes to the truth. We are all here to see and hear God afresh, no matter whether we are here for the first time, the fiftieth time or the five hundredth time.

We will begin by praying for one another inviting God's Spirit to help each of us see and hear and know God in this time.

Instructions

Invite everyone under the age of 18 (or pick an age that is about the halfway split in your congregation) to stand either in their seats or on their seats if they are little and won't be seen. This group will begin singing the song as their prayer to see and know God.

Charge those who are over 18 (or whatever age you have designated), who are sitting down, with the task of praying for the people standing around them while they sing, supporting the sung prayers of the people under 18 who are asking God to open the eyes of their hearts. After singing just the chorus once like this, everyone swaps: those who are over 18 can now stand and sing, and those under 18 are invited to pray for those around them.

Depending on the culture of your community, judge whether to ask people to pray silently or to pray out loud, all at once, with the singing happening as well making a symphony of prayer.

After praying for each cohort in this way separately, singing just the chorus each time invite everyone to stand together and sing the rest of the song, including the verses.

Additional Easter themed verses

To see you serving on your knees
Washing the feet of your brothers
Pour out forgiveness and love and we say
Make us more like Jesus

To see you giving up your power
Choosing to serve and to suffer
You pour out your mercy and grace
You are calling us to follow

To see you breaking through our walls
Risen and wounded and with us
Show us your power and grace
And give us faith to rise up and follow



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Creative Music: We were strangers

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By Beth Barnett

This is a creative music engagement for use during worship time, using the song 'We were strangers' plus additional verses.

You will need:	Words on screen, including extra verses (see below)
Time required:	4-5 minutes

Use...

We were strangers (One Body)

Cathy Summers & Matt Osgood
RESOUNDworship.org, Administered by The Jubilate Group
CCLI Song #7042430.

Listen & Play

https://www.resoundworship.org/song/we_were_strangers_one_body

or Guitar chords

<https://tabs.ultimate-guitar.com/tab/resound-worship/we-were-strangers-one-body-chords-3001700>

Instructions

Use this song to celebrate the diversity and the unity of the people of God, along with the reading from Acts 4:32-35.

Highlight and demonstrate this diversity and unity by inviting members of your gathering to choose various percussion instruments. Encourage a range of rhythms and patterns to be played in the verses – shakers playing eighth note rhythms, triangles on fourth and first beats, blocks on two and four, tambourines on one.

Then in the chorus, draw all the instruments together to simply play on the first beat of the bar together.

Practice this a few times – you might not be able to achieve perfect unity – that's ok, that's reality! The life and death and resurrection of Jesus shows us what kind of lives we can aim for that will make unity possible – lives of common love and sharing, generous giving and hearty praise of God.

*Note also the line 'breaking down the walls between us' which connects to the story of Thomas, in which Jesus appears in the room with his followers – walls are of no power against the resurrected Jesus.



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