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We Need a Church that's Inside-Out

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We Need a Church that's Inside-Out

Abstract

This hymn gives voice to one frustration that many Christians feel: a despair over watching Christian factions argue about doctrine while the poor suffer outside of church walls. This hymn calls us to see the self-obsession which prevents us from attending to those in need (first stanza), confess our neglect of Jesus' mandate to care for others (second stanza), and turn away from the distractions of petty bickering toward the expression of Christ's peace, grace, and love to all those outside the church (third stanza).

About the Author

Heather Josselyn-Cranson is the director of the music ministry program at Northwestern College. She has earned degrees in music composition, sacred music and liturgy from Bates College and Boston University School of Theology, and has served as a minister of music at congregations in Florida, Massachusetts and Russia. An active scholar, she has published articles on music in emerging churches, how translation affects the hymns of Charles Wesley, and women's participation in the chant of medieval monastic communities.

Dr. Josselyn-Cranson's composition and hymn writing have also received attention. Her choral compositions for the musical *Terror Texts* received a special commendation for Distinguished Achievement in Choral Music from the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival in 2009. Three of her recent hymns have also won awards: "Every Day We See the Traces" won second prize in the Jesuit 25th Anniversary Hymn Contest sponsored by St. Peter's Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, in 2011; "Planets Humming as They Wander" won the Boston University School of Theology Hymn Competition in 2010; and "We Cannot Know What Worship Is" received second prize in the Congregational Justice Song Contest sponsored by the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee in 2009.

Acknowledgements

The audio recording features Northwestern students Amanda Vander Stelt and Jacob Ven Huizen on vocals. Lem Mauer and Michael Stokes served as audio engineers.

We Need a Church that's Inside-Out

Tune name: Inside-Out

We need a church that's in - side - out, a peo - ple fo - cused on the
For far too long the church has fought its pri - vate wars in - side four
O Spi - rit, turn us in - side - out, re - new the chur - ch's heart and

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world. It's time for us to do — with - out the in - house fights that keep us
walls. We've on - ly cared for what we thought was pro - per, not for Je - sus'
will. In - stead of in - sult, scorn, and shout, let us — with peace and grace in -

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curled up like — a ball and self - ob - sessed, while those out - side pass by, un -
calls. Our pri - vate, pet - ty, small con - cerns have o - ver - rid - den ur - gent
still our ev - ery ges - ture, ev - ery word, so that, with spi - rit o - pened

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seen. We must re - call our God - giv'n quest to love, to feed, to heal, make clean.
needs. Con - fes - sing now, we hum - bly yearn to fol - low where our Je - sus leads.
wide, we'd lis - ten to those still un - heard, and turn our gaze, in love, out - side.

Words and music: Heather Josselyn-Cranson, OSL, 2014