

FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH



“Eucharistia” is a Greek work meaning “Gratefulness” or “Thankfulness” – and Folliot Pierpoint wrote “For the Beauty of the Earth” as a hymn to be sung during the service of “Holy Eucharist” or “Holy Communion” as many of us call it!

Not only are we grateful for God’s gift of His Son – whose death and resurrection we remember by the bread and wine of communion – but we are grateful for all the other gifts of God’s love by which we are surrounded every moment. What are some of the specific gifts named in

the stanzas of Mr. Pierpoint’s hymn: _____

Could you make up a stanza of your own to thank God for some of His gifts to your life? _____

Mr. Pierpoint, though a teacher of the “classics” – (the finest literature of all time) –, chose simple, every day words for the text of “For the Beauty of the Earth”. What kind of words are used in your favorite Bible verses and in the stories told by Jesus? _____

Do you think that God wants us to use artificial, elaborate ways of speaking and dressing and living? _____

Conrad Kocher, the composer of the tune, founded a school of music in Stuttgart, Germany, and popularized four part singing. Look at the TUNE INDEX of your hymnal to see if there are other words set to this

tune: _____

See if you are a clever enough “Tune Detective” to discover where the tune name “Dix” comes from: _____

We divided our choir into light, medium, and dark speaking voices and recited the hymn words as a Choral Reading, with all of us joining on the refrain. Then, remembering Mr. Kocher’s interest in four part singing, we sang through Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass, noticing especially how pretty the thirds sound together. We also noticed how often the parts moved in OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS!

Each time I partake of communion from now on, I’ll not only think of my gratitude for Christ but of my thankfulness for all the gifts of beauty, of time, and of love with which God fills each day!