

**Opening Acclamation** from the Poet Rumi:

Today, like every other day, we wake up empty  
and frightened. Don't open the door to the study  
and begin reading. Take down a musical instrument.  
Let the beauty we love be what we do.  
There are hundreds of ways to kneel and kiss the ground.

[There are hundreds of ways to pray.]

**A Reading of the 98th Psalm:**

Sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things;  
his right hand and his holy arm  
have worked salvation for him.

Feature trumpets and big trombones,  
Fill the air with praise.

The Lord has made his salvation known  
and revealed his righteousness to the  
nations.

Let the sea and its fish give a round of  
applause,  
With everything living on earth joining in.

He has remembered his love  
and his faithfulness to Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.

Let the rivers clap their hands,  
let the mountains sing together for  
joy;

Shout your praises to God, everybody!  
Let loose and sing! Strike up the band!

Let them sing before the Lord,  
for he comes to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world in righteousness  
and all its people with equity.

Round up an orchestra to play for God,  
Add on a hundred-voice choir.

The Word of the Lord.

## The Speech:

- We'd like to return to our Chapel Theme "Growing a Garden" this morning, but in a new way. If we've talked about clearing ground and planting some seeds already this year, we haven't really talked about tending and caring for a garden.
- You may be wondering, "what's with the instruments?" and how in the world does music and gardens relate? Well, as it turns out, tending to a piece of music with a Quartet shares a lot in common with tending a garden, only... it's not a one person job:
- **Four musicians have to work together to grow the music.**
  - There's the 1st violinist, who adds the toppings to the music, just like decorating a cake. The violin allows for them to play really high notes so it's easy to notice their playing.
  - The 2nd violinist plays a supportive role and is the sugar and eggs that help build up the cake. Subtle — but very important.
  - In addition to that, there's the violist, who acts as the flour or batter mix that glues the violins and cello together, supporting and highlighting the decorations.
  - Finally, we have the cellist, who is the foundation to our piece and moves our piece along as we go, basically the tray that we place our finished cake on.
- **Just like baking a cake or growing a garden, huge amounts of attention and care are required on a daily and weekly basis.** There is a lengthy process of learning through trial and error, hours of fine tuning many small details, and LOTS of personal interpretations are required to sculpt and develop our piece. **The music we play is not written on the page, but in our minds. The members of a quartet must respond as the music grows and imagine together what the final product will be.**
- **In practicing and playing, Communication with the music and with each other is a must.** Throughout the piece, we communicate to each other with our eyes and we learn to adapt and connect in real time, even as we play the music!
- **You may recognize this from other parts of your school, performing, and sports lives...if so great! If not, take the opportunity sometime to try it out. It's a ton of work, but very rewarding!**
- **So, without further ado, here's a 7 minute piece of music that we've grown this fall, "[the 1st Movement of Debussy's string quartet](#) (chapel version was not recorded; this is a link to a version from the Noga Quartet and CBC Broadcasting)." Welcome the Cooke Quartet!**