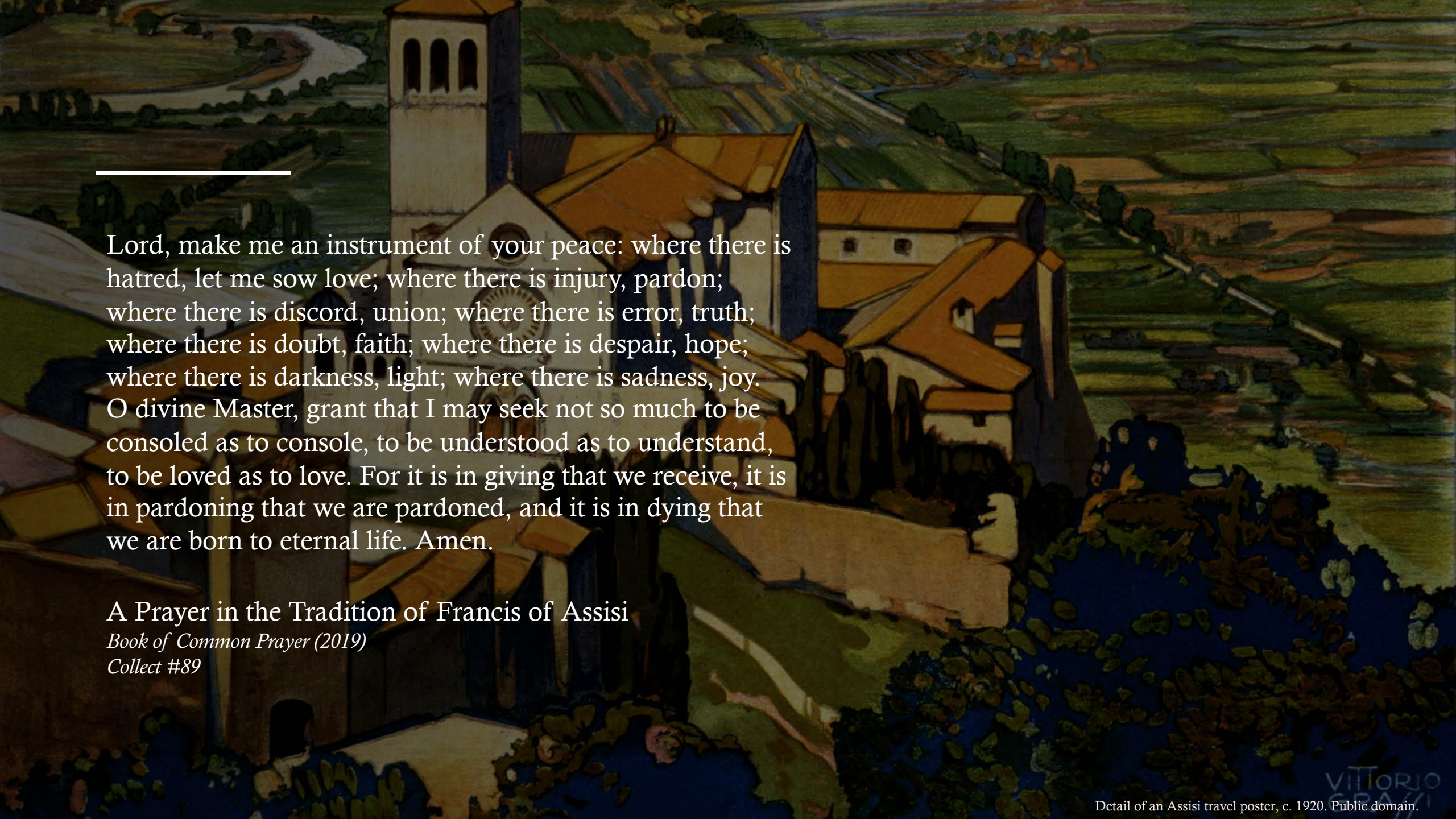




ART AND THE GOSPEL

Session Eight:
St. Francis and
Medieval Theatre



Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is error, truth; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O divine Master, grant that I may seek not so much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

A Prayer in the Tradition of Francis of Assisi

Book of Common Prayer (2019)

Collect #89



St. Columbanus window at the Abbey of Bobbio
Photo: Trebbia, Creative Commons.



Fresco in Benedictine Abbey of Subiaco, 1228-1229



Francisco de Zuberán, *Francis in Meditation*. National Gallery, London



Giotto di Bondone, *Saint Francis in San Damiano*



San Damiano Cross



San Damiano interior. Photo: PD



Giotto di Bondone, *St. Francis Preaching to the Birds* (1300).

Canticle of the Creatures

Most High, all powerful, good Lord,
Yours are the praises, the glory, the honour, and all blessing.
To You alone, Most High, do they belong,
and no man is worthy to mention Your name.

Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures,
especially through my lord Brother Sun,
who brings the day; and you give light through him.
And he is beautiful and radiant in all his splendour!
Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,
in heaven you formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind,
and through the air, cloudy and serene,
and every kind of weather through which
You give sustenance to Your creatures.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water,
which is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
through whom you light the night and he is beautiful
and playful and robust and strong.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Mother Earth,
who sustains us and governs us and who produces
varied fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.

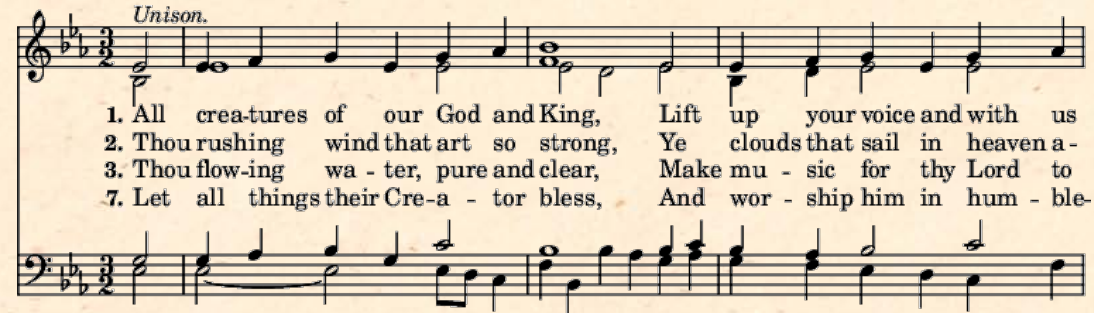
Praised be You, my Lord,
through those who give pardon for Your love,
and bear infirmity and tribulation.
Blessed are those who endure in peace
for by You, Most High, they shall be crowned.

Praised be You, my Lord,
through our Sister Bodily Death,
from whom no living man can escape.
Woe to those who die in mortal sin.
Blessed are those who will
find Your most holy will,
for the second death shall do them no harm.

Praise and bless my Lord,
and give Him thanks
and serve Him with great humility.

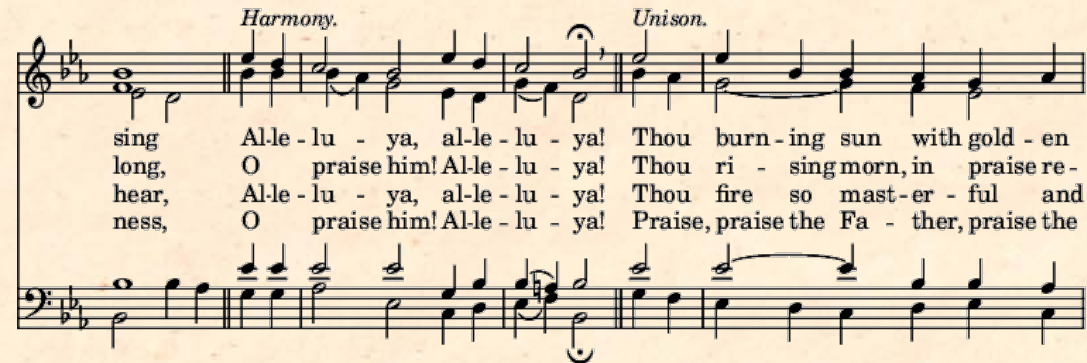
All Creatures of Our God and King

Unison.



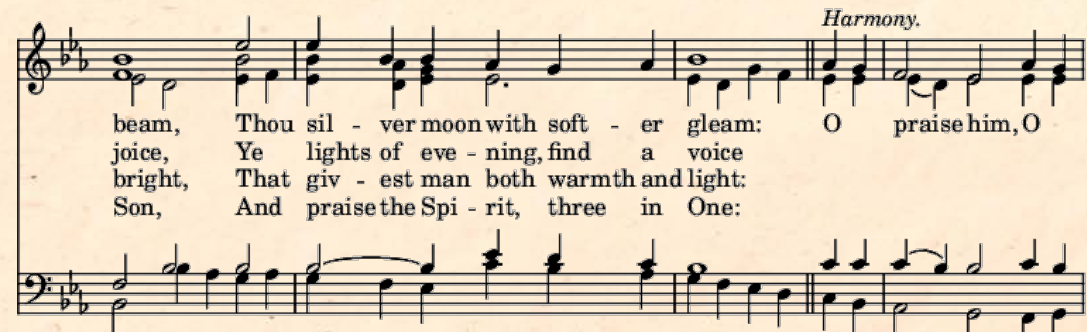
1. All creatures of our God and King, Lift up your voice and with us
 2. Thou rushing wind that art so strong, Ye clouds that sail in heaven a-
 3. Thou flow-ing wa - ter, pure and clear, Make mu - sic for thy Lord to
 7. Let all things their Cre-a - tor bless, And wor - ship him in hum - ble-

Harmony. *Unison.*



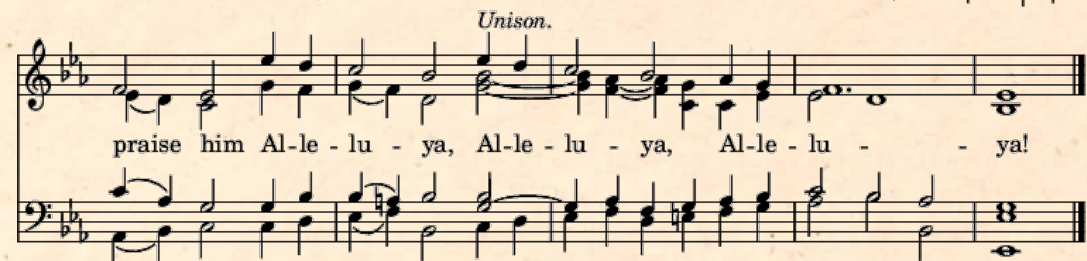
sing Alle - lu - ya, al-le - lu - ya! Thou burn - ing sun with gold - en
 long, O praise him! Alle - lu - ya! Thou ri - sing morn, in praise re-
 hear, Alle - lu - ya, al-le - lu - ya! Thou fire so mast - er - ful and
 ness, O praise him! Alle - lu - ya! Praise, praise the Fa - ther, praise the

Harmony.



beam, Thou sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam: O praise him, O
 joice, Ye lights of eve - ning, find a voice
 bright, That giv - est man both warmth and light:
 Son, And praise the Spi - rit, three in One:

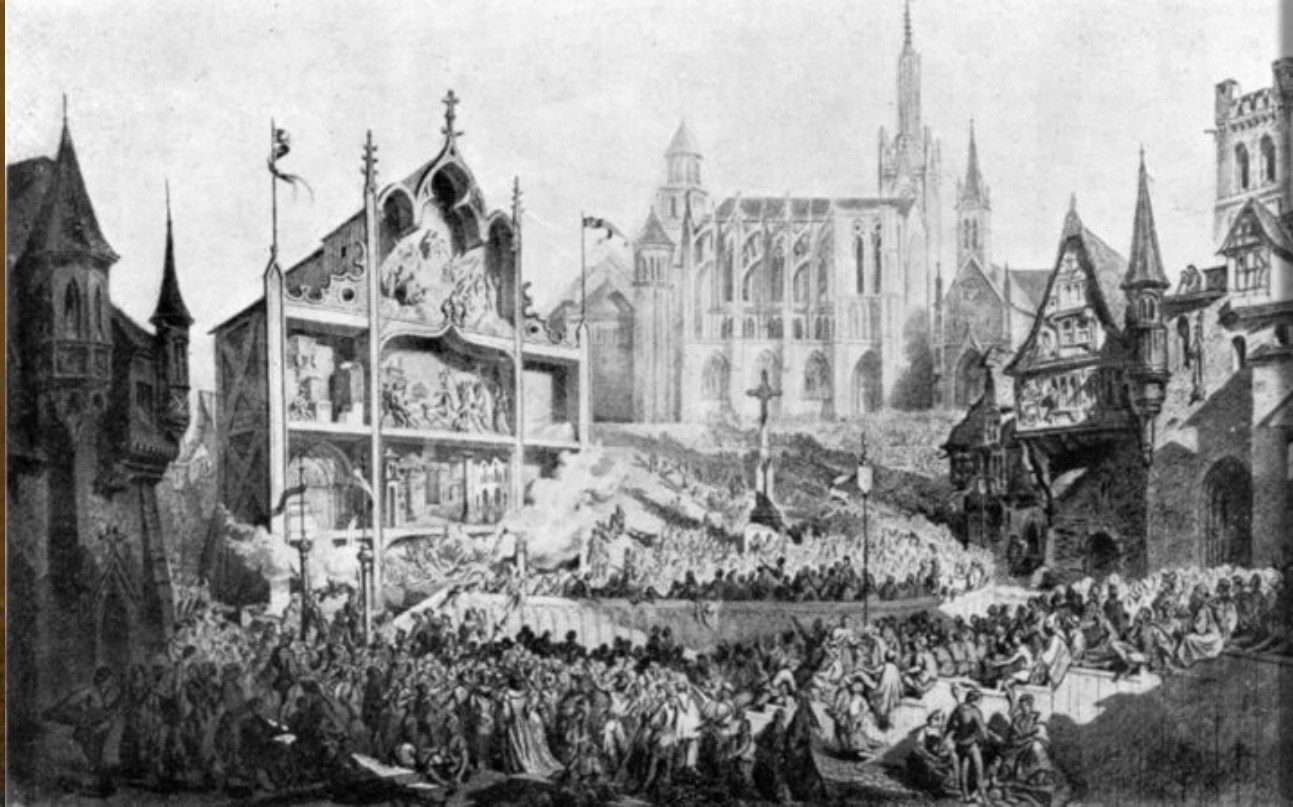
Unison.



praise him Alle - lu - ya, Alle - lu - ya, Alle - lu - ya!



Fresco in the Chapel of the First Live Nativity, Franciscan Sanctuary of Greccio. Photo: Christopher John, SSF. Creative Commons



Depiction of a performance of the Mystery Play of Saint Clement in Metz during the Middle Ages.



Mystery play, Flanders, 15th century.

TODAY'S SOURCES

- Murray Bodo, *Francis: The Journey and the Dream*
- Mark Galli, *Francis of Assisi and His World*
- Todd E. Johnson and Dale Savidge, *Performing the Sacred: Theology and Theatre in Dialogue*