Reflection I. (after "A Mighty Fortress", before the group beginning with "Unexpected and Mysterious")

"Behold, I am doing a new thing",
declares God.
"Do you not see it?" (Is.43:19)

A new thing.
unexpected.
the universe spirals toward diversity toward complexity newness.
surprising us with smaller and smaller subatomic particles astonishing us with larger and larger galaxies serenading us with deep songs from the nebulas and stars.
unexpected.

wonder full.
God at work in the universe mysterious.
Beneath the midnight galaxies surrounded by clusters of angel song
A new thing.
unexpected.

God and human come together in the chamber of the heart heart of human heart of God unexpected.
a new thing.
Reflection II. (after "Christ, When For Us," before "Bless Now, O God, the Journey")

"Let the same mind
be in you
that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was
in the form of God…
emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave."  
(Phil.2:5,6,7,)

The Greek word
for repentance,
metanoia,
means
"go beyond
the mind
that you have".
Jesus walked the limestone roads
of Galilee
calling the people
to step beyond.
To step beyond fear
to step beyond grasping for power
to step beyond who's in and who's out
to step beyond self-loathing.
Samuel Torvend writes:
"Reform was at
the very heart
of Jesus' own
public work…"
(Luther and the Hungry Poor, p. 10)
calling for reform
in the daily lives
of pious and observant people
calling for reform
of an oppressive
and punitive
understanding of God.
Go beyond the mind that you have -
"Let this mind be in you"-
Christ healed
Christ fed
Christ taught
Christ loved,
and -
Fear Not -
Christ lives.
Reflection III. (after "Day of Arising," before "O Living Breath of God")

"And the One who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." (Rev. 21:5)

The journey in Christ is a journey of becoming, of new creation.
The heart of God enters the human heart and - new creation.
The mind of Christ opens the human mind and - new creation.
(Behold, I make all things new)
The Spirit of God joins new heart and new mind in the human body and - sparks burst forth fire flames upward:
wonder gratitude compassion justice peace

new creation in this body in this life in this place

A story from the desert fathers and mothers:

Abba Lot went to see Abba Joseph and said:
Abba, as far as I can, I say my little office,
I fast a little, I pray and meditate,
I live in peace, and, as far as I can,
I purify my thoughts.
What else can I do?
The old man stood up
and stretched up his hands toward heaven.
His fingers burned like ten lamps of flame, and he said,
"You can become fire."
Reflection IV. (after "God of Tempest," before "Holy God, We Praise Your Name")

"The steadfast love of God
never ceases;
God's mercies never come
to an end;
they are new every morning."

(Lam. 3:22,23)

God is always
drawing the universe
toward newness
God is ever
beckoning us
to become
to become new creations
to step beyond.
Wonders surround us
Can we remain unmoved?
Shall we stare uncomprehending,
as Luther says,
"like a cow
staring at a new gate?"

(Lectures on Genesis, at 45:3)
The universe spirals
toward diversity
toward complexity
Wake, awake
it sings in the ear,
Step beyond,
become new
become the person
God created you to be:
prophets, apostles, white-robed martyrs,
teachers, carpenters, physicists, poets
unexpected.
mysterious.
In the heart of God
In the mind of Christ
In the fire of the Spirit.

Rabbi Zusya said:
In the world to come,
I shall not be asked,
"Why were you not Moses?"
I shall be asked,
"Why were you not Zusya?"

(Copyright©2012 Susan Palo Cherwien.
References are for information only, and not intended to be read aloud.)