

CD #5

Dedication *I dedicate this CD to my loving God. What more could we ask for than a God who planned for us to know and enjoy Him here and forever? Whereas Satan has some power but no love, God has both power and love—even love that is sacrificial. Who could imagine a God that would leave heaven's glory to be born into a sinful and evil world? And die for us? This depth of love boggles my mind. What a wonder!*

“How blessed is God! And what a blessing he is!
He's the Father of our Master, Jesus Christ, and takes us to the high places of blessing in him.
Long before He laid down earth's foundations, He had us in mind,
had settled on us as the focus of His love,
to be made whole and holy by His love.
Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ.
(What pleasure he took in planning this!)
He wanted us to enter into the celebration of his lavish gift-giving
by the hand of his beloved Son.
Because of the sacrifice of the Messiah, his blood poured out on the altar of the Cross,
we're a free people—free of penalties and punishments chalked up by all our misdeeds.
And not just barely free, either. Abundantly free!
He thought of everything, provided for everything we could possibly need,
letting us in on the plans he took such delight in making.
He set it all out before us in Christ,
a long-range plan in which everything would be brought together
and summed up in him,
everything in deepest heaven, everything on planet earth.
It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for.
Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us,
had designs on us for glorious living,
part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.”
Ephesians 1:3-12 (The Message, by Eugene H. Peterson)

Special Thanks *Thank you, Trent, for your vibrant and emotionally poignant violin playing! Each time I listen, I am delighted. Joe, you did it again, crafting the kaleidoscope of harmonies in diffuse colors that shine through each song while also uniting the collection together to glorify God. Marilyn, once more you added the richness of your lovely cello. Thank you, Christopher Burkett, for permission to use your awesome photograph of Resplendent Leaves. Thank you, everyone, for your marvelous healing art!*

Credits:

Lyrics, melodies, and vocals: Wanda Viola

Piano and arrangements: Joe Howard

Violin: Trent Smith

Cello: Marilyn George

Photography (cover): Christopher Burkett www.christopherburkett.com (used with permission)

Graphic Design: Mary Ellen Deutscher

Editing & mixing: David Sandwisch

Production: Wanda Viola

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Please read before listening:

If you have been seriously abused, please listen to this CD first with a prayer minister, therapist, or pastor, if possible. It has surfaced emotional pain and memories in some listeners. If you are not in counseling and listen to this and find yourself recalling abuse or having strong emotions, please get help. I want you to be safe!