

Something Stirs When Heaven Opens
God's Spirit descends on Jesus as he is baptized by John

1 Epiphany, Years ABC

1. Something stirs when heaven opens,
sweeping, birdlike, toward the land.
Something moves to make a dwelling
in an outstretched, upturned hand—

2. That which animates beginnings,
brooding over sea and mud,
and which nurtures re-creation,
angel of the ending flood,

3. Soaring over wave and mountain,
circling where the waters sing,
swooping near the desert river,
rushing toward the Fisher King.

4. Brooding, soaring, rushing Spirit,
as we trace your forward flight,
may our hands reach out, a dwelling
where a migrant bird may light.

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Something Stirs When Heaven Opens

Michael Hudson (b.1950)

Restoration, melody from *The Southern Harmony*, 1835

arr. Albert Blackwell

1. Some-thing stirs when heav-en o-pens, sweep-ing, bird-like, toward the land.
2. That which an-i-mates be-gin-ings, brood-ing o-ver sea and mud,
3. Soar-ing o-ver wave and moun-tain, circ-ling where the wa-ters sing,
4. Brood-ing, soar-ing, rush-ing Spir-it, as we trace your for-ward flight,
*Melody in tenor part**

5. Some-thing moves to make a dwell-ing in an out-stretched, up-turned hand—
and which nur-tures re-cre-a-tion, an-gel of the end-ing flood,
swoop-ing near the de-sert ri-ver, rush-ing toward the Fish-er King.
may our hands reach out, a dwell-ing where a mi-grant bird may light.

**Tenor melody is doubled at the octave throughout in either alto or soprano.*

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