

The Pastor's Point

Beautiful Things

All this pain

I wonder if I'll ever find my way

I wonder if my life could really change, at all

All this earth

Could all that is lost ever be found?

Could a garden come out from this ground, at all?

You make beautiful things

You make beautiful things out of the dust

You make beautiful things

You make beautiful things out of us

All around,

Hope is springing up from this old ground

Out of chaos life is being found, in you

You make me new,

You are making me new

You make me new,

You are making me new

(Making me new)

Songwriters: Lisa Gungor / Michael Gungor

Beautiful Things lyrics © Capitol Christian Music Group

As we march toward Easter, I can't help but hum this song. A simple piece by Gungor, a contemporary Christian worship band, *Beautiful Things* became a staple in worship with the college students I served at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Blessed by abundant talent, Sunday night worship ran the gamut from traditional hymns to Bluegrass gospel, to contemporary worship band pieces. But no matter what style worship music took or how many musicians were playing in our little improvised band, *Beautiful Things* was a bare-bones kind of song. It's hopeful and spare, and we liked it best when we sang it a cappella. For the students it became a reminder that in a world of cut-throat competition and narrow definitions of success, they were Children of God growing in faith. Despite the pressure for perfect grades and constant busy-ness, this piece always helped them return to the reality of God's love, assuring them that they were beautiful in God's eyes.

We all had favorite lines and the more musical would embellish theirs with some sort of fancy harmony or high descant. And before you knew it, what had been a simple spare song had become something more, something complex and substantial. And I can't stop thinking about "out of chaos life is being found, in You." This is my favorite line lately, the idea that in the midst of chaos, in the midst of seeming randomness, God sees patterns emerging. God pulls the patterns together, creating light from darkness, life from no-life, order from chaos. And all of it, both raw material and evolving project is beautiful. And isn't that the Kingdom of God? The chaos and the order to come, the randomness subtly shifting into patterns like a kaleidoscope. The patterns may change, the order may shift, but the artist remains.

As we approach Easter Sunday, I encourage you to take some time for quiet, for stillness. For seeing how God is making sense of your life and our communal life at CCC. Things can feel precarious right now, chaotic and scary. But rest assured, God is making something beautiful out of us.

Blessings,

Pastor Heather

Link to the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oyPBtExE4W0>