

## 23. This Is a Day of New Beginnings

WORDS: Brian Wren

9.8.9.8.

1. This is a day of new beginnings,  
time to remember, and move on,  
time to believe what love is bringing,  
laying to rest the pain that's gone.
2. For by the life and death of Jesus,  
love's mighty Spirit, now as then,  
can make for us a world of difference  
as faith and hope are born again.
3. Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,  
step from the past, and leave behind  
our disappointment, guilt and grieving,  
seeking new paths, and sure to find.
4. Christ is alive, and goes before us  
to show and share what love can do.  
This is a day of new beginnings;  
our God is making all things new.

Alternate stanza 4, at communion:

4. *In faith we'll gather round the table  
to show and share what love can do.  
This is a day of new beginnings;  
our God is making all things new.*

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FLF-34; BH-370; HWB-640; SDAH-342; UMH-383; WVP3-661. January 1978, revised 1988. Written for New Year's Day Sunday, Church of the Holy Family, Blackbird Leys, Oxford, England. Because the New Year is an arbitrary date on the calendar, its ability to bring renewal is questionable, so the original began, "Is this a day of new beginnings?", developed further in a second stanza: "How can the seasons of a planet, / mindlessly spinning round its sun, / with just a human name and number, / say that some new thing has begun?" The revision, made at the request of the United Methodist Hymnal Revision Committee, simplifies the hymn, and makes it more widely usable, while Carlton Young's lyrical tune, BEGINNINGS, composed for this revision, has already proven its value. The "communion stanza" is printed in italics, to show that it is an *alternative*, not an addition: I am regularly in churches which fail to notice this, and sing two stanzas with almost identical words. The communion stanza is original: the Church of the Holy Family had a weekly service of Word and Sacrament, and could always sing, "in faith we'll gather round the table."

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WORDS: Brian Wren, 1978, 1987  
 MUSIC: Carlton R. Young, 1987

BEGINNINGS  
 9.8.9.8.

*Unison*

1. This is a day of new be -  
 2. For by the life and death of  
 3. Then let us, with the Spir - it's  
 4. Christ is a - live, and goes be -  
 \*4. In faith we'll gath - er round the

1. gin - nings, time to re - mem - ber,  
 2. Je - sus, love's might - y Spir - it,  
 3. dar - ing, step from the past, and  
 4. fore us to show and share what  
 4. ta - ble to show and share what

\*Alternate text for Holy Communion.

1. and move on, time to be - lieve what  
 2. now as then, can make for us a  
 3. leave be - hind our dis - ap - point - ment,  
 4. love can do. This is a day of  
 4. *love can do. This is a day of*

1. love is bring - ing, lay - ing to  
 2. world of dif - ference as faith and  
 3. guilt, and griev - ing, seek - ing new  
 4. new be - gin - nings; our God is  
 4. *new be - gin - nings; our God is*

1. rest the pain that's gone.  
 2. hope are born a - gain.  
 3. paths, and sure to find.  
 4. mak - ing all things new.  
 4. *mak - ing all things new.*