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## GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY AN EXODUS TRIPTYCH

During our Friday night gathering, the Fine Arts Center Auditorium becomes like the “Symposium family living room,” a place for telling stories, sharing gifts of songs, visual images, testimonies, and prayers. The focus during all our worship services has been the book of Exodus, with each service telling one part of the story. Tonight we tell the larger story of Exodus in three movements:

Part I: **The Gift of God’s Deliverance**

Part II: **The Gift of God’s Law**

Part III: **The Gift of God’s Tabernacling Presence**

Each movement will begin with a dramatic retelling of part of the story by the drama students from Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa, and members of Third Christian Reformed Church in Zeeland, Michigan. Visual proclamation is given by a variety of artists, including presenter Sandra Bowden.

Each scripture drama will be followed by songs composed and led by various symposium presenters that God has enabled to be present among us during these days, including Bruce Benedict, Ruth Duck, John Ferguson, Andy Park, Latifah Phillips, Eric Sarwar, André Thomas, and several Calvin student musicians. Also contributing will be an honors orchestra of students from area high schools led by David Reimer, John Varineau, and Robert Nordling.

We not only receive these gifts, we also enter into the story, since it is our story. All of us in Christ celebrate our deliverance from death into life, the gift of the law that shows us how to live the abundant life, and the faithful continuing presence of God-with-us, Immanuel, through life in the Spirit, as we look forward to the return of Christ when his glory will be fully revealed.

This same kind of event is very possible in any number of settings, telling these and other stories from scripture, and using the gifts of prayer leaders, artists, poets, musicians and songs that God’s Spirit is drawing into your communities. Here are some questions that could guide your approach in planning an event in your own context:

- What part of God’s story could we retell (a chapter, a whole book, or even more)?
- How can we frame the retelling of the story to call attention to God’s redemptive action? (Tonight’s headings are adapted from Tremper Longman’s book, *How to Read Exodus*).
- How could we tell the story (drama, single reader, story teller)?
- How can the visual arts also participate in telling the story?
- What musical gifts help us respond to the story?