

To the Sanctuary Choir of First Congregational Church (UCC) of Long Beach, CA  
which proudly sits at the corner of Arts & Justice

# Bending Toward the Light

SATB and Piano

Words and Music by  
Curtis Heard

$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano *mf*

1 2 3

4 SATB unison *mp*

5 Through the dark - ness, —

6 through the light, through the strug - gle,

7

8 through the fight, our des - ti - na - tion is just —

9

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo of 80 beats per minute. It begins with a piano introduction in the right hand (treble clef) and left hand (bass clef). The piano part features chords and moving lines. The vocal part enters at measure 4 with a unison SATB line. The lyrics are: 'Through the dark - ness, — through the light, through the strug - gle, through the fight, our des - ti - na - tion is just —'. The score includes measure numbers 1 through 9. A large watermark 'For Review Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

10 11 12

— out of sight, but we are bend-ing toward the light.

13 14

Through the des - ert, through the heat,

L.H.

15 16

through the fi - re, through de - feat,

17 18

seek - ing jus - tice to make wrongs right, — bend - ing

19 20 *mf*

slow - ly toward the light. Like the *mf*

21 22

glow — of a dis - tant sun, like a

23 24

breeze from a far - off land, we may be

25 26

weak, we may feel un - done, but still we

27 28 29

seek, still we stand, as we bend

30 *p* 31 32

slow - ly toward the light.

*mf*

33 34

35 *f* 36

Through the ha - tred, through the lies, —

*unis. f*

*f*

37 38

through the an - ger, through the sighs, -

39 40

push - ing up - ward with all *div.* of our might, bend - ing

41 42

slow - ly toward the light. Like the

43 glow \_\_\_\_\_ of a dis - tant sun, 44 like a

45 breeze \_\_\_\_\_ from a far - off land, 46 we may be

*mp*

47 weak, 48 we may feel un - done, but still we

49 seek, 50 still we stand. *f* 51 Hand in hand, side by

52 side, 53 through the wall, through the di-vide..

54 — 55 Hand in hand, 56 side by side, led by

Hand in hand, side by side,



57 58 59 *p*

some - thing deep in - side, A star with-

60 61 62 *f*

in. Like the

63 64

glow of a dis - tant sun, like a

65 66

breeze from a far - off land, we may be

67 68


weak, we may feel un - done, but still we

69 70

seek, still we stand, as we

71 8  
 bend  
 72 slow - ly toward the light.  
 73  
 Through the dark - ness,

74  
 75 *rit.*  
 76  
 through the night.  
*rit.*



Curtis Heard is a pianist, conductor, and composer/arranger. His original compositions, primarily choral works, have been performed throughout the US. Larger works include operas, choral cantatas, and *October Mourning: A Song for Matthew Shepard*, for choir, soloists, narrators, handbells, and chamber orchestra. Curtis leads the choral and musical theater departments at Long Beach Wilson High School and is the choir director at First Congregational Church in Long Beach.

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