



Tell Out My Soul



Incarnational Transformation

An Interview By the Very Rev. Julia McCray Goldsmith

I chose “Tell Out My Soul” as a hymn for my ordination two years ago. It’s such an important biblical text and prayer, and it has a special meaning for me as a Latina. In Latin America we are devoted to Mary but don’t necessarily pray the Magnificat so much. It’s such a statement of hope, abundance and strength, though. Mary strengthens me.

While I was in formation for the priesthood, I used to pray to God to stop me if I was taking the wrong path. Ordination felt like a radical transformation: it required a lot of trust, just like being the mother of God was an act of trust for Mary. Growing up in Costa Rica, a nun in my Catholic school said Mary always brings us to places and then takes us away from places. She moved in faith, and so have I.

I came to the US to study music at Indiana University. When I was finishing my bachelor’s degree I found myself pregnant. I couldn’t go back to CR because I would have been subjected to so much shame. But even though it was really hard to continue, people surrounded me and became family to me and my daughter. I experienced more of the same love and solidarity at Christ Church Cathedral in Indianapolis, which was my very first professional job as a musician.

Music has the power to transform our communities. I’m pretty sure that whatever Good News I bring has to do with Latin American music. Latino people have a gift to share culture and spirituality. It’s an incarnated spirituality that takes the form of hospitality, sharing meals, motherhood, community, and solidarity. It’s different from European music in that it’s an oral tradition learned by ear. That’s incarnational, too: the music is told through our voices and learned through our ears. tens.org

Questions for Reflection:

How do you pass down stories from one person or generation to another in your cultural context?



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