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Original Song Lyrics: "Just a Little"

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MIKE BLAIR

Original Song Lyrics

“Just a Little”

(August 2018)

Weary from the rising tides of malice,
families separated in the land of liberty.
How have we become a nation callous
to *huddled masses yearning to breathe free*?
Prophets' wisdom, like a bell resounding,
justice bearing mercy and a generous feast for all,
parables of need and grace abounding,
last handful of flour becomes a widow's generous call.

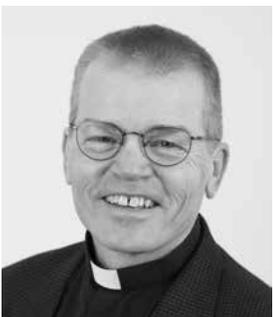
I just need a little light from Bethlehem,
it would be enough just to reach and touch the
garment's hem.
join the great refrain, “We shall overcome,”
even dogs will get the master's table crumbs.
All I need is a little, all I need, just a little.

Immigrant Naomi suffered losses,
like so many refugees, a tale of deep lament,
the faithfulness of Ruth, a new colossus,
“I will go where you go,” a sacred testament.
Mother of all citizens and exiles,
bless us by your welcome with so many things amiss,
courage grant amidst the chaos hostile,
what if we are born for a time such as this?

I just need a little light from Bethlehem,
it would be enough just to reach and touch the
garment's hem.
Take and bless the gifts counted last and least,
hearts are hungry for a loaves and fishes feast.
All I need is a little, all I need, just a little.

Torch of liberty and faithful beacon,
burn with pilgrim hunger for a world more just and whole,
luminous and wise with fire of freedom,
summon forth the kindred spark in every blessed soul.

I just need a little light...



Mike Blair serves as a college pastor at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. He is a 1979 alumnus of Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois, with majors in music and psychology, and a 1985 graduate of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Mike and his wife, Sue Blair, sing together at coffeehouses, congregations, retreats, and community venues. Their first CD, *Ever Singing*, is a collection of original works expressing gratitude for Sue's recovery from Hodgkin's Lymphoma and the shared journey of song. You can learn more about their music at eversinging.com. Mike led a version of “Just a Little” as one of the devotions during the 2018 Vocation of a Lutheran College conference. The lyrics are inspired by a host of biblical images and stories, by Emma Lazarus' poem “The New Colossus” that graces the Statue of Liberty, and by the faith, hope, love, and courage of immigrant friends and neighbors.