

BLESSED BE GOD

Blessed be God Who caused us to be,
called us to flourish, created us free,
present wherever goodness is found,
setting us firmly on holy ground.

Refrain

Sing unto God a jubilant song,
praising the One to Whom we belong.
Sing of the future and of the past,
Love ever present, holding us fast.

Blessed be those who under duress,
greet us like manna in our wilderness,
fill us with hope when courage is gone,
give us the strength for carrying on. *Refrain*

Blessed are all who here upon earth,
nurture a vision and bring it to birth,
Live by the creed we boldly embrace:
blessed assurance, amazing grace. *Refrain*

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WE ARE GATHERED

We are gathered here together,
drawn by a growing faith some say is gone.

We find faith in one another,
and the confidence to carry on.
The times have been hard, we seek a community,
so we might offer a common prayer.
A warring world finds meaning in unity,
and when we gather, God is there.

We are gathered here together,
gathered to celebrate what we profess:
our concern for all God's children,
our desire for their happiness.
The headlines, O God, compel us to turn to You.
There is an answer within Your word.
To love and forgive, yes, this we would learn to do,
and trust our prayers for peace are heard.

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ALL PRAISE AND THANKS

All praise and thanks to God
from Whom the word resounded,
whose wisdom fills the One
on whom our hope is founded,
whose Spirit dwells within and hears the heart's intent,
whose grace inspires the "yes" of every just dissent.

Take heart, beloved of God, who long for liberation.
Your pain is bringing forth the promised new creation,
when all that was endured is but a memory,
and all the dreams we dream become reality.

All glory be to God, the source of our believing,
the catalyst of our joy, the comfort of our grieving,
Who from the womb has been the love that we discern,
the Womb to whom in love we shall one day return.

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COME, SOPHIA

Come, Sophia, Holy Wisdom, gateway to eternity.
Sacred source of all that is from long before earth came to be.
In Your womb the primal waters from below and from above
gently rock Your sons and daughters, born to wisdom and to love.

Come, Sophia, be a clear compelling presence everywhere.
Still the terror, dry the tears; come, ease the burdens that we bear.
From the first faint light of morning, through the dark when
day is done,

be the midwife of our birthing and the rising of our sun.

Come, Sophia, intuition weaving wisdom deep within,
bringing promise to fruition through the prophets that have been,
pleading justice for tomorrow and forgiveness for today
for the images we borrow and the roles we often play.

Come, Sophia, we believe You are the shaman of the soul.
Break us open to receive You; fill us up and make us whole.
You inspire us to envision all the fullness of shalom
on a new path through tradition that will surely lead us home.

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THANKS-GIVING DAYS

For the gift of each new day, for the wisdom living brings,
for support along the way; for a universe that sings:

Refrain

Gracious God, we count the ways
all days are thanks-giving days.

For Earth's blessings: how profound nature's cosmic harmony;
for Earth's peoples who abound with divine diversity: *Refrain*

For the grace to shape the times so that peace defines our days,
for community that mimes love for all through lives of praise: *Refrain*

For the good that love inspires, for a world where none exclude,
for a faith that never tires, and for every heart renewed: *Refrain*

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LIFT US OUT OF THE DEPTHS

Lift us out of the depths of our doubts, we pray.
Show us touches of tenderness on our way.
When we slip and fall, help us all recall:
Your mercies are more than our fears convey.

When our losses begin to outweigh our gains,
when we want to give up, when our heart complains,
when we can't let go, help us grow to know:
some gifts fall away, but Your love remains.

When our spirit within cannot see the stars,
when we've wounded unwillingly, leaving scars,
when the pain is real, help us feel Your healing
presence in ways that are Yours and ours.

Draw us into the depths of Your love, we pray.
Give us strength for continuing day by day.
We would heed Your call. We are almost always
ready to follow You all the way.

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A GLAD SONG

Wise women and discerning men,
lift up your hearts in hope again,
sing a glad song, alleluia!
Good new resounding 'round the earth,
God-with-us promising rebirth.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

God's own creation comprehends,
responding from remotest ends
with rejoicing, alleluia:
earth's planetary harmonies
and songs of ancient galaxies.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

O let our grateful prayer arise
to praise the love that never dies.
Christ is risen, alleluia!
O mystery most marvelous!
Christ risen, rising now in us!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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O FOR A WORLD

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.
O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.
We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
that opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones
are wise.
Tell all who mourn, outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.
O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

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HOW BEAUTIFUL

How beautiful, our spacious skies, our amber waves of grain,
our purple mountains as they rise above the fruitful plain.
America! America! God's gracious gifts abound,
and more and more we're grateful for life's bounty all around.

Indigenous and immigrant, our daughters and our sons:
O may we never rest content till all are truly one.
America! America! God grant that we may be
a sisterhood and brotherhood from sea to shining sea.
How beautiful, sincere lament, the wisdom born of tears,
the courage called for to repent the bloodshed through the years.
America! America! God grant that we may be
a nation blessed, with none oppressed, true land of liberty.

How beautiful, two continents, and islands in the sea
that dream of peace, non-violence, all people living free.
Americas! Americas! God grant that we may be
a hemisphere where people here all live in harmony.

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PAX CHRISTI

Through the shadows of the past a brand new day is breaking.
Slumbering spirits are slowly waking,
calling us all to work at universe-making
and a unity we can see and share.

Refrain Peace on earth: this is our prayer.

Let there be *pax Christi* everywhere.
From an ocean of despair a wave of hope is rising:
peace and justice uncompromising,
borne on a tidal wave of love emphasizing

solidarity among all who care. *Refrain*

When compassion finds its way to all the wounded places
and caresses the tear-stained faces,
then, only then will we have peace among races.

Loving kindness teaches that God is there. *Refrain*

For a future free from war the human heart is yearning.
When we witness to what we're learning,
peaceful nonviolence will guide our discerning,
heralding rejoicing beyond compare. *Refrain*

All around our weary world we hear the Spirit stirring,
keeping faith in the dream recurring:
healing and reconciling people preferring
planet earth transformed. Good the news we bear. *Refrain*

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HYMN TO LOVE

If I speak with human wisdom or angelic sophistry,
it is nothing but distraction if I have no love in me.
Empty words devoid of meaning, all a hollow echo of
clanging cymbal in the silence: I am nothing without love.

If I have prophetic powers, understand all mysteries,
have the faith and all the knowledge to move mountains, still the seas;
give away all my possessions, all on earth I'm fondest of,
give myself and all my freedom: it is nothing without love.

Love is all that really matters. Love is patient, love is kind.
Love is pathway to compassion and how justice is defined.
Never boastful nor resentful, love is never jealous of
the achievements of another. Love is God and God is love.

As a child we thought like children. We've outgrown our
childhood phase.
As adults now it is time we put an end to childish ways.
Our reflection in a mirror shows us dimly but a trace
of the one we'll know completely when we meet Love face to face.

Words will vanish, knowledge cease, there is nothing that extends.
Only love is everlasting, only true love never ends.
Love believes all and receives all, never growing weary of
keeping faith, sustaining hope: these will abide because of love.

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THANKS BE TO GOD

Thanks be to God! How grateful are we,
gathered together in jubilee,
drawn by a vision that will endure:
hope for a world where all are secure.
Telling the story hallows the years,
honors the memories and pioneers,
says to the future: we will survive.
Look all around you, love is alive.

Holy the mission, meeting the need;
selfless the service, daring the deed;
beyond the boundaries, cognizant of
widening the sacred circle of love.
Telling the story hallows the days,
honors the wisdom of ancient ways,
leads us beyond remembering when,
challenging us to do it again.

Doing the justice God's Spirit craves,
the setting free from all that enslaves,
taking a stand and making it clear:
all of God's children are welcome here.
Telling the story hallows the dreams,
honors our history's dominant themes,

times of achievement, times of regret,
lack of forgiveness, lest we forget.

Called to conversion, as in the past,
covenant-making, bonds that will last –
great the awakening once we have heard
what is required through God's holy word.
Telling the story hallows the prayer
rising from hearts dispersed everywhere.
Transforming grace inspires us to be
one with the saints of our legacy.

Looking to Jesus our Pioneer,
running the race, we will persevere.
Urgent the need that urges us on.
Faith the foundation we build upon.
Telling the story hallows the tears
shed for the suffering throughout the years.
Great is the cloud of witnesses here,
as we move toward another frontier.

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PILGRIMS

Pilgrims fled discrimination, risked their lives to cross the sea,
sowed the seed from which our nation reaps religious liberty.
Still the sanctuary steeple rises with integrity,
symbol of all pilgrim people gathered in community.

Deeply rooted expectation, hunger for transforming grace,
form those faith-filled congregations where love wears a
human face.

Drawn to justice and compassion, called to witness unity,
from our dreams we would refashion now a new community.

Daring is the proclamation of a future free from fear,
calling forth the new creation: all God's people welcome here.
Love imagines coalitions, Word-made-flesh in you and me,
old-line faith and new traditions joined in solidarity.

Praise the Source of breath and being, Life on Whom
all life depends.

Praise the One Whose firm and freeing love incarnates
and transcends.

Praise God's holy, hallowed Spirit, blessed continuity,
showing all who see and hear it, how God's word shapes history.

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GOD OF MY CHILDHOOD

God of my childhood and my call,
make me a window, not a wall.
So like an icon, may I be
a sign of love's transparency,
and through the love that lives in me,
proclaim Your lasting love for all.

Come, O my Maker, make of me
a mirror, so that all may see
within themselves Your saving grace,
reflection of Your Holy Face,
an image of Your warm embrace
and nurturing reality.

Creator, recreate us all.
Come, lift us up before we fall.
You are the Wisdom and the Way,
the Dawning of Unending Day,
the Word we sometimes fail to say
within our canon of recall.

God of our future, help us see
a vision of the yet-to-be:
in You is freedom from our fears,
a silent strength and no more tears;
in You dissension disappears
into a global harmony.

God of all gods, to You we sing
a song of Your imagining:
a liberating melody,
to set our shackled spirits free,
to tell us that Your canopy
of care is all-encompassing.

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O SONS AND DAUGHTERS

O sons and daughters, come hear the good news,
embrace the miracle, and if you choose,
let it empower you, do not refuse, alleluia.

Refrain Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

On Easter morning, 'twas dark before dawn.

Mary of Magdala stood looking on.

The tomb was open and Jesus was gone, alleluia. *Refrain*

Mary stood heartbroken, trembling with tears.

Suddenly, someone said, "Why do you fear?"

Love is alive again. Look! I am here!" Alleluia. *Refrain*

On Easter morning before break of day,
the faithful women were making their way

back to the tomb where their friend Jesus lay, alleluia. *Refrain*

When they arrived, they were startled to see

a heavenly angel who said to the three:

"Jesus has gone on into Galilee," alleluia. *Refrain*

Two were returning home later that day,
sadly reflecting, unable to pray.

A stranger joined them for part of the way, alleluia. *Refrain*

Hearts burned as scriptures were interpreted.

"Come, spend the night in our dwelling," they said,

knew it was Jesus while breaking the bread, alleluia. *Refrain*

O sons and daughters, come, break into song.

Jesus is risen, it will not be long:

we too will rise again, vibrant and strong, alleluia. *Refrain*

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WE PRAISE YOU, GOD

We praise You, God of all the earth, and all Your ways we bless.
In You all love begins and ends. Your universal love transcends
our own dividedness.

We call to You with words we clothe in cultures of our own.
You rise above all cultic claims to answer to our many names,
a God as yet unknown.

O Wisdom, wait within us, wake our weary hearts to praise,
empowering the powerless and strengthening with gentleness,
till all embrace Your ways.

Our many paths all lead to You in every time and place.

Our hearts rejoice in serving You, make all we are and all we do
a channel of Your grace.

We turn to You, O Sacred Source of hope and harmony.

Our work on earth will not be done, till human hearts all beat as one
in global unity.

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SING A SONG OF JUBILATION

Sing a song of jubilation, sing with ringing harmony,
bringing forth a dedication, deepening community.
As our praises rise before us, phrases echo through the years,
coming from the cosmic chorus of past friends and pioneers.

From the ashes, spirit rising, hope transcending wounds of war,
faith and love uncompromising, gift of life worth living for.
May these hallowed halls of learning welcome all who seek
shalom,
and the wisdom of discerning always be returning home.

From the mountains that surround us, from the everlasting
hills,
flows a blessing all around us, which enables and fulfills.
Give to us, O Love Excelling, grace to live as You intend.
Be within us, Love indwelling, be among us, Faithful Friend.

Gratefully, we dare to call You, ever changing, yet the same.
May we always welcome all who call You by a different name.
Ever open and expanding, our desire to live as one.
Peace surpassing understanding be the gift when all is done.

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BEARER OF LIGHT

Bearer of light, bright is the Fire:
fear not the night nor your heart's deep desire.
Rise and go forth, it is God Who is calling.
Love will uplift you and keep you from falling.
Love will uplift you and keep you from falling.

Prophet of peace, give without sparing,
and never cease your compassionate caring.
Whole worlds await you that hunger for healing.
Go and proclaim all that God is revealing.
Go and proclaim all that God is revealing.

Love will not fail God's sons and daughters.
Drink of the Grail, dare to walk on the waters.
Reach for the stars, for our Hope has arisen,
breaking the bars and the doubts that imprison,
breaking the bars and the doubts that imprison.

Do not despair. Cling to the vision.
God will be there in the time of decision.
Fly on the wings of the One Who empowers.
Count not the cost, never number the hours.
Count not the cost, never number the hours.

Sibling of earth, one with creation,
bringing to birth now a new revelation.
Add your own lines to the biblical story.
Yours is the grace and to God be the glory.
Yours is the grace and to God be the glory.

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ALL CREATURES SING

To You, O God, all creatures sing, and all creation, everything
sings Your praises, alleluia!
Your burning sun with golden beam, Your silver moon with
softer gleam
sing Your praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Your wind that blows the tempest by, Your clouds that sail
across the sky
sing Your praises, alleluia!

Your morning rises with a song, and lights of evening sing along,
sing Your praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Your flowing waters, crystal clear, make melodies for You
to hear,
sing Your praises, alleluia!

Your fire, bountiful and bright, remembering Your warmth and light
sings Your praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

To You, O God, day after day, Your planet earth in every way,
sings Your praises, alleluia,
as savory fruit and fragrant flower show forth Your glory and
Your power,
singing praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Now we who are of tender heart, forgiving others, take our part,
sing Your praises, alleluia!
To You we lift our pain and care, receive the burdens that we bear,
singing praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

In You, a kind and gentle death, prepares to hush our final breath,
singing praises, alleluia!
Christ goes before us to renew the way that leads us home to You.
Hear our praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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WE THANK YOU, GOD

We thank You, God, for every year
Your gracious Word has graced us here.
We thank You for the many ways
Your Spirit speaks these latter days.

Forgive the times we weren't sincere
and failed to make Your message clear,
the times Your liberating Word
has gone unheeded and unheard.

Confirm the faith that sees us through,
our strength restore, our zeal renew,
as we proclaim You near and far
through all we do and all we are.

Through days of darkness and distress,
we lean upon Your faithfulness.
In You our tattered hope resides.
In us Your steadfast love abides.

May Spirit gifts of jubilee
accompany this century,
and from the hope that lives and dies,
a warmer, wiser world arise.

Proclaim a year of favor here.
Let grace abound and peace appear.
Receive our song of prayer and praise.
Be with us now, all times, all ways.

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THE CHURCH'S FIRM FOUNDATION

The church's firm foundation is Christ the Risen One,
in Whom the new creation already has begun.
All we who are preparing for Christ to come again,
respond with selfless sharing, for who knows where or when.

Our full participation in Christ's own victory
gives rise to jubilation for all we're called to be.
Though time may sometimes alter the vision we express,
our fervor will not falter, nor will God fail to bless.

In every generation church is renewed once more
as a continuation of graces gone before.
All we who truly hear it – what saints of old have heard –
are living in the spirit of Christ the living Word.

In every land and nation, to anyone in need,
love is our proclamation made manifest in deed.
All peoples are invited to bring good will to birth,
for when we are united, we can transform the earth.

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