

DON'T BE AFRAID

Refrain

Don't be afraid, don't be afraid, don't be afraid.
I am prepared to protect and will not be swayed.
Don't be afraid, don't be afraid, don't be afraid.
I'm with you always and with all I have made.

Verses

Bombs are falling on a world we love.
Hawks outnumber the nesting dove.
Are these the signs You warned us of? *Refrain*
Christ hung dying in a public place.
Black was the color of His bleeding face.
O God, have mercy on the human race. *Refrain*
Children starve and we ignore their cries.
Songs and slogans are a poor disguise.
O God, sustain the ones we scandalize. *Refrain*
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GATHER HERE

We believers, gracious God,
gather here to pray together.
We are one within Your love.
This we know we're certain of.

Hear the praises that we sing,
as we bring our lives before You,
knowing You are sowing seeds,
sowing strength within our needs.

Sing of things we long to see.
Sing of all the world awaking
to a new awareness of
an infinity of love.

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LONG ROAD TO FREEDOM

Refrain

It's a long road to freedom, a winding steep and high.
But when you walk in love with the wind on your wing
and cover the earth with the songs you sing, the miles fly by.

Verses

I walked one morning by the sea,
and all the waves reached out to me.
I took their tears, then let them be. *Refrain*

I walked one morning at the dawn,
when bits of night still lingered on.
I sought my star, but it was gone. *Refrain*

I walked one morning with a friend,
and prayed the day would never end.
The years have flown, so why pretend. *Refrain*

I walked one morning marveling,
and all my winters turned to spring.
Yet every moment held its sting. *Refrain*

I walked one morning through the fray
to where dividing walls give way.
My spirit soared, but could not stay. *Refrain*

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IN A WHIRLWIND

Refrain

God spoke to Job in a whirlwind
and mountains trembled when face to face.
God spoke to Moses in a cloud
and there was fire in the holy place.

God speaks to me in the flash of a storm
and in the warm winds of grace.

Verses

To whom shall I turn in my hour of need?
I cry to my God: come, pay me heed.
Out of the depths the Spirit leads me,
tenderly takes me in and feeds me. *Refrain*
To whom shall I turn to allay my fear?
I cry to my God: be with me here.
God is in me, I am reminded,
helping me see when my eyes are blinded. *Refrain*

To whom shall I turn when our wars increase?

I cry to my God: let there be peace.
Who will ignite its smoldering embers?
How long until the heart remembers *Refrain*

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COME, CHRIST JESUS

Christ, come quickly, there's danger at the door,
poverty a plenty, hearts gone wild with war.
There's hunger in the city and famine on the plain.

Refrain

Come, Christ Jesus, the light is dying,
the night keeps crying: Come, Christ Jesus.

Want demands a hearing in far too many lands.
The sick go unattended, death deals a heavy hand.
Our dreams are often empty, our cup of sorrow full. *Refrain*

The world awaits the dawning of that appointed day
when all who cry for justice are blessed in every way.
We have the prophet's promise, we await the word of peace. *Refrain*

The clouds shall send a savior like softly falling rain,
the one who has the power to free us from our chains,
whose shield will be compassion, whose weapon liberty. *Refrain*

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LOVESONG

Love is patient, love is kind,
healing the hurt heart, haunting the mind.
Love will go with you, till one day you'll find,
love must leave love behind.

Love is a rainbow conceived in a storm.
Love, in the cold war of life, is warm.
Love will be waiting when evening draws on,
then one day, love may be gone.

Love is a mountain, certain and strong,
sometimes a silence, sometimes a song.
Love will remember the where and the when.
Come, love, come again.

Love will go tenderly, tenderly by,
teasing to laughter, teaching to cry.
Love will watch lovingly, letting you learn:
some loves never return.

Love will flow on into love without end.
Love will continue to break, to bend.
So soon December, remembering when.
Come, love, come again.
Come, love, come again.
Come, love, again.

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CHRISTMAS BALLAD

Joseph and Mary were living in Galilee,
when Caesar demanded a census by his decree.
They had to travel to Bethlehem,
which was a very long way for them,
and Mary would soon, so soon, deliver her child.

They set out at once, though the trip would be rough,
they could see.
They made no complaint, for they knew this was how it must be.
Mary went happily from the start.
She carried the love-light in her heart,
for Mary would soon, so soon deliver her child.

When they arrived, Mary knew that her moment had come.
Joseph went searching for shelter still offered to some.
But strangers were suspect and hearts were hard.
The hopes and the homes of the world were barred,
and Mary would soon, so soon, deliver her child.

So in the dirt and the damp and the dark of a cave,
took flesh all the love and the life that our God ever gave:
a beautiful burst of a brilliant sun,
a once-in-a-lifetime, seen by none,
for Mary had quietly, simply delivered her child.

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SPIRIT OF GOD

Spirit of God at the dawn of creation,
life-giving, loving, and hovering still,
to You we turn in anticipation:

Refrain

fill the earth, bring it to birth and blow where You will.
Blow, blow, blow till I be
but breath of the Spirit blowing in me.

Here in the midst of a world so conflicted,
caught between forces for good and for ill,
Spirit of love, move unrestricted: *Refrain*

God's word abounds. The discerning will hear it,
heart linked to heart, linking blessings until
all people know we're one in the Spirit: *Refrain*

Spirit of God, stir within Your creation.
Make us aware of the gifts You instill.
Open us to a new revelation:

Final Refrain

fulfill the earth, bring it to birth and blow where You will.
Blow, blow, blow till I be but breath of the Spirit blowing in me.

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SING ALLELUIA

Jesus is God's gift of wisdom,
who empowers and forgives.
Yes, he died, but do not weep.
He has risen from his sleep.
His spirit lives: alleluia.

Refrain

Sing alleluia, Jesus is risen.
He is risen indeed, alleluia.

Jesus came forth like the morning,
like the rising of the sun:
light among us from the womb,
light within us from the tomb,
resplendent one, alleluia. *Refrain*

Jesus united our mountains
with the everlasting hills.
Every season, every sea
is a sacred symphony,
rocks and rills: alleluia. *Refrain*

Jesus is anticipation
of the peace for which we long.
We who follow him today
sing of love along the way.
This is our song: alleluia. *Refrain*

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JOY IS LIKE THE RAIN

I saw raindrops on my window,
Joy is like the rain.
Laughter runs across my pain,
slips away and comes again.
Joy is like the rain.

I saw clouds upon a mountain,
Joy is like a cloud.
Sometimes silver, sometimes gray,
always sun not far away.
Joy is like a cloud.

I saw Christ in wind and thunder,
Joy is tried by storm.
Christ asleep within my boat,
whipped by wind, yet still afloat.
Joy is tried by storm.

I saw raindrops on the river,
Joy is like the rain.
Bit by bit the river grows,
till all at once it overflows.
Joy is like the rain.

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BALLAD OF THE WOMEN

Refrain

Hurry and light your lamps, for the
day is done and the dark is falling.
Watch and wait. It's getting late.
Pretty soon now you'll hear the bridegroom calling.

Verses

Ten women. We surmise:
five were foolish and five were wise.
With a job to do and a watch to keep,
all ten fell fast asleep. *Refrain*

At midnight came a shout:
"The bridegroom's coming and the lamps are out!"
The women rose to make the lanterns strong,
but five had brought no oil along. *Refrain*
"Give us oil from your supply."

"Not enough," they were told. "You go and buy."
The bridegroom came while they were gone.
The rest joined the party and the feast went on. *Refrain*

The five who were caught off guard
returned to find that the door was barred.
"It is us," they cried, "look what we've got."
"Go away," he said, "I know you not." *Refrain*

Keep watch and be prepared.
There are some things that must be shared.
You will be ready when Christ returns,
if the love you have is a love that burns.

Final Refrain

Hurry and light your lamps.
Soon the Promised One will be returning.
Watch and wait. It's getting late.
Be sure, very sure, that your lamps are burning!

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GOD, GIVE YOUR PEOPLE STRENGTH

God, give Your people strength.
If we believe in Your way,
You're swift to repay
all those who bear the burden of the day.
God, give Your people strength.
God, give Your people hope.
If we but trust in Your word,
our prayers are always heard.
You warmly welcome anyone who's erred.
God, give Your people hope.

God, give Your people love.
If we but open wide our heart,
You're sure to do Your part,
and always the first to make a start.
God, give Your people love.

God, give Your people peace.
When sorrow fills us through and through,
our courage renew.

Come, lay to rest our restlessness in You.
God, give Your people peace.

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LAMENT

Refrain

Justice will come, but the waiting is long.
They've broken the brown bird and silenced its song.

Verses

I left a dream asleep on a hill.
It woke to the wind and danced to its will.
Hope can't be bound. How do I know?
The dream went on dancing. I had to let go. *Refrain*
I let a dream go wandering free,
delighting the world with its wanting to be.
Time came along with a ball and a chain,
but time could not shackle the haunting refrain. *Refrain*

I hid a dream in a dark empty hole,
the dream of a prophet afraid of the role.
Now it belongs to each living thing.
When the brown bird is silent, the dreamer will sing.

Final Refrain

Justice will come, but the waiting is long.
They've broken the brown bird. How sweet is its song.

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LIGHT A CANDLE

Light a candle in your heart.
Show love from within.
Tell retaliation to depart.
Let the healing of the world begin.

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PEACE PRAYER

Peace is the prayer we pray
for this new world emerging,
for hastening the day
of consciousness converging.
Peace flowing from within
will alter the way we live,
repairing what has been
whenever we forgive.

Build no restraining wall.
Resist the violent voices.
Extend a hand to all.
Make conscientious choices.
Those forces that divide,
hostility and despair,
will never override
the good that's everywhere.

When all the world is one
and all the wars are ended,
new empathies begun,
old enemies befriended,
when accusations cease,
when turbulent thoughts are stilled,
perennial dreams of peace
will finally be fulfilled.

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BE RECONCILED

Refrain

Be reconciled, one with another.
Now and forever,
we are brothers and sisters born of God.

Verses

We long for one world, linked hand in hand,
no one a stranger, no foreign land. *Refrain*
When one is hurting, all feel the pain.
Share then the freedom! Share then the gain! *Refrain*
Work for a future when war will cease,
when we'll be one world living in peace. *Refrain*

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