TUNEINI



Tune In! A Collection Of Worship Songs From The Brunswick Uniting Church

Edited: Chris Lees

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To contact any of the songwriters or for any enquiries, please contact:

Wholenote Publishing enquiries@wholenote.com.au or

Brunswick Uniting Church 212 – 214 Sydney Road c/o PO Box 293 Brunswick, Australia 3056. www.brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au

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Foreword

Church is one of the few places left where people, regardless of age or ability, sing together. We sing, not to be the best singer, not to bask in the beauty of our own cleverness as singers, not even to listen to others who sing very nicely. We sing to worship God as one people joined in song. It is, in some ways, the simplest form of communal participatory worship that we know.

Songs are also part of Sunday's worship that stays with us during the week. Along with a phrase or two from a prayer or sermon, a strain of melody will play itself over and over as we go about our daily work, reconnecting us to our faith community, reminding us of God's presence, calling us to prayer.

And yet, we don't seem to be happy to sing just one or two simple chants. Even after 2000 years since Christ, and many more years since Creation, the worshipping community still has this compulsion to write and sing new songs to our God. As we experience God in new ways, we keep finding new ways of expressing our relationship with God and our hope for God's church and the world. This book is a collection of songs written by a group of churchgoers in inner-city Melbourne, that speak of our doubts and hopes, sorrows and dreams.

We know that our experiences of God and society are shared by others, and so these songs come from our community to yours. I pray that you will find as much meaning in them as we do, and that these songs will inspire you, comfort you, sustain you, and help you and your community to worship our Creator. I pray that you will join us as we join with Miriam and with David. Pick up your tambourine! Pick up castanets, lyres and cymbals, guitars, trumpets and saxophones! Sing and dance before our God with all your might!

Natalie Sims



Acknowledgements

This songbook is the work of many people. It is a collection of 30 songs that have been joyfully offered by songwriters who are members of the Brunswick Uniting Church congregation. We acknowledge this gift first and foremost.

The songs were first collected, printed and brought into regular congregational use in two draft editions, both compiled by Natalie Sims.

The published version that you hold in your hands arises from our desire to share the songs more widely, and to include a reference CD that musicians and song leaders can use as an aid to learning the songs. The worship committee and songwriters want to acknowledge with great enthusiasm the work of Chris Lees and Dave Brown.

In particular we would like to thank Chris for all his work in engineering, mixing and producing the CD, and for his reworking of all the notations (and in many cases arranging the music) in piano, vocal and guitar format. We also want to thank Dave in managing and overseeing the project, collecting and editing the song blurbs, and generally supporting and encouraging everyone involved.

The worship committee also wants to acknowledge the commitment of the songwriters to the project as they have sought to present their work in a highly professional manner, and of the additional musicians and singers involved in recording the CD.

We hope that all who sing these songs feel as inspired and uplifted as we do!

Worship Committee Brunswick Uniting Church



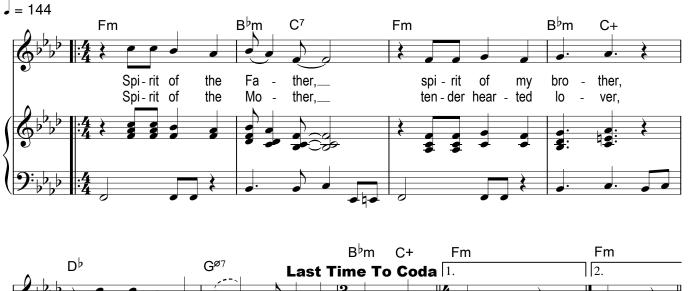
Contents

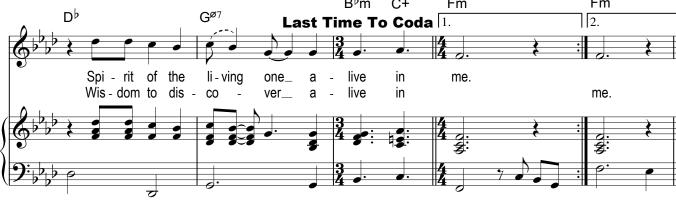
Page	Song	Words & Music	
6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22	Alive In Me All Will Finish Well Can You See God? Community Cover Us With Love Dare To Dream Father Of Earth Forgive Us Now God Is Walking In The Garden	W: Sheree Anderson Dave Brown Matthew Lees Dave Brown Elaine Loukes Elaine Loukes Dave Brown Dave Brown Dave Brown	
25 26 28 30 32 34 36 38 40 42 44 46 48 50 52 54 56 58 60 62 64	The God That I Know God's Mercy A Grain Of Wheat Hail The Fisherfolk Hosanna In The Shape Of A Cross Invitation Isaiah 61 (The Spirit Of The Lord) Jesus Is Waiting Kingdom Come Longing Making Things New May You Go Well Our God Who Weeps Peace In Our Time Save Us In The Time Of Trial Shepherd Of The Night Tune In! A Vision Strong We Will Sing a New Song Your Abundant life	W: Sheree Anderson Sheree Anderson Sheree Anderson Dave Brown Dave Brown Dave Brown Shawn Whelan M: Elaine Loukes Dave Brown Matthew Lees Elaine Loukes Sheree Anderson Dave Brown Kate Scull Dave Brown Shawn Whelan Elaine Loukes Natalie Sims Shawn Whelan Dave Brown Dave Brown	M: Dave Brown
66 96	Lyrics Scripture References		

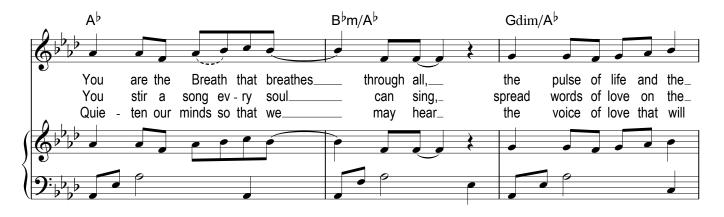
Alive In Me

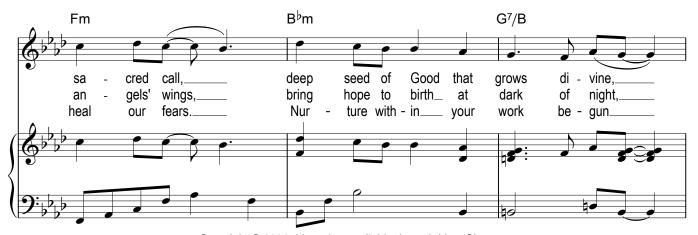
Words: Sheree Anderson Music: Dave Brown Arranged: D Brown & C Lees

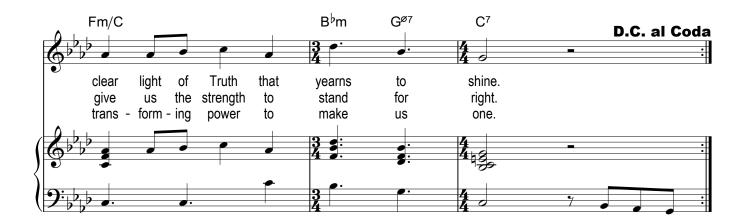


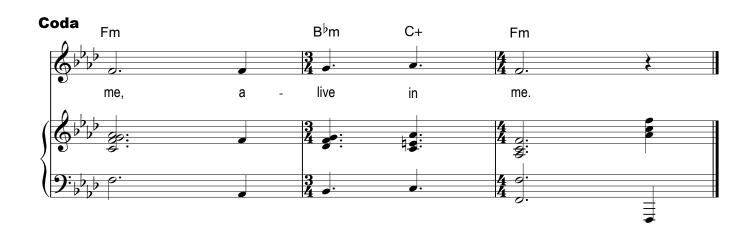










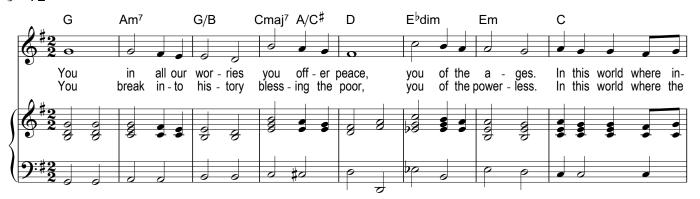


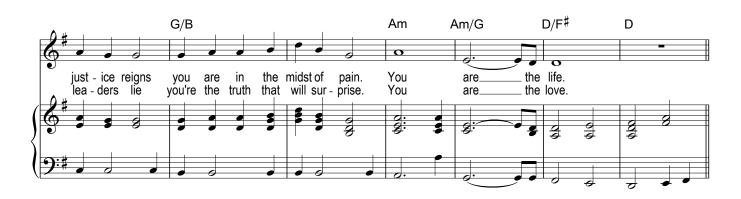
All Will Finish Well

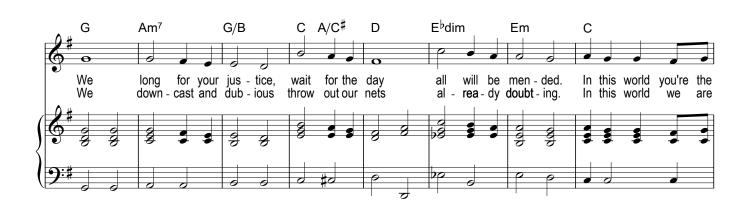
Free And Flowing

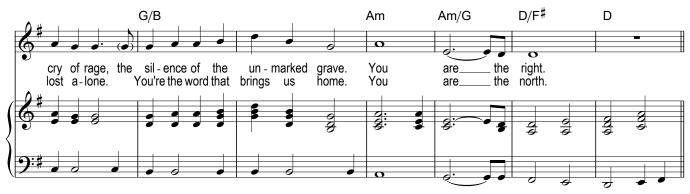
Words & Music: Dave Brown Arranged: D Brown & C Lees







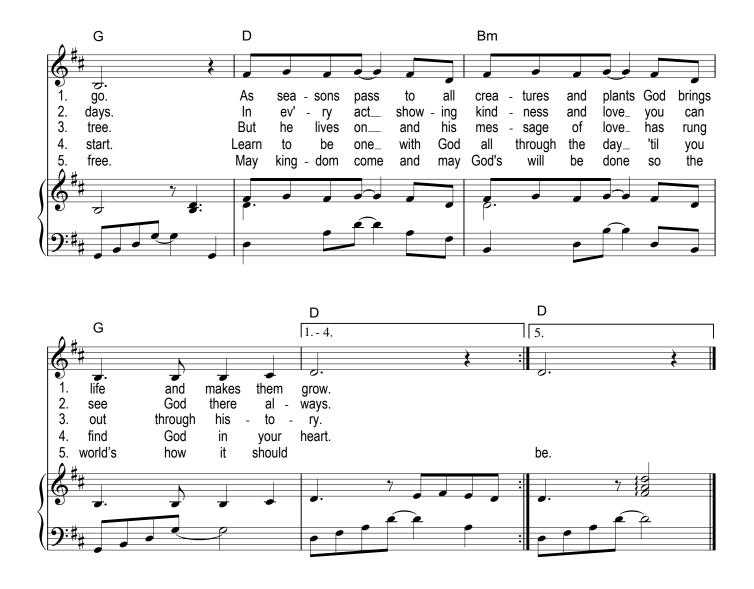






Can You See God?





Community





Cover Us With Love





Dare To Dream



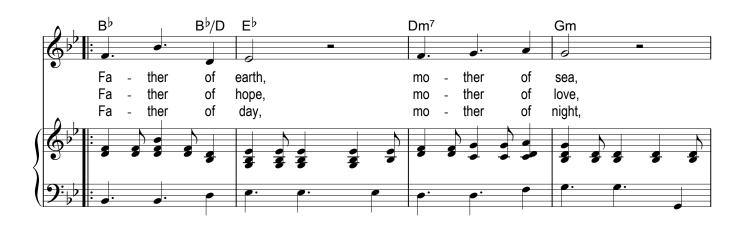


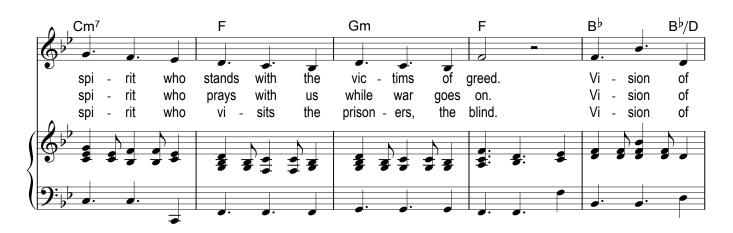
Father Of Earth, Mother Of Sea

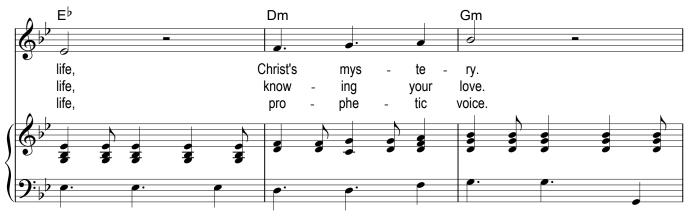
Words & Music: Dave Brown Arranged: C Lees & D Brown





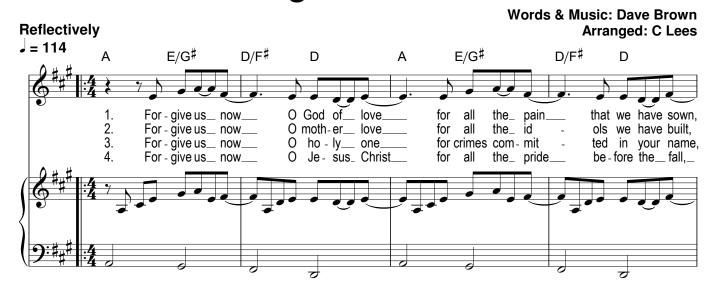


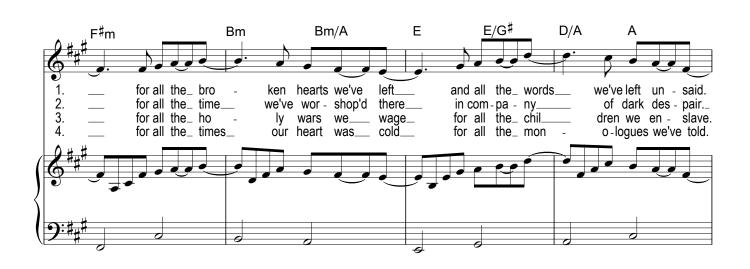


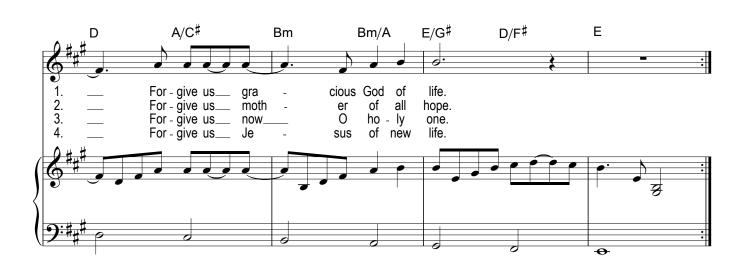




Forgive Us Now

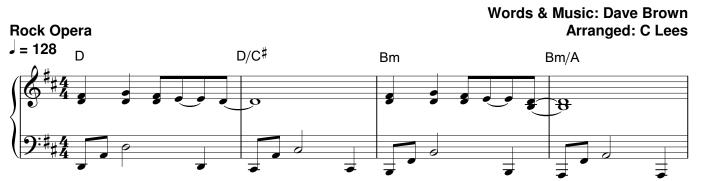




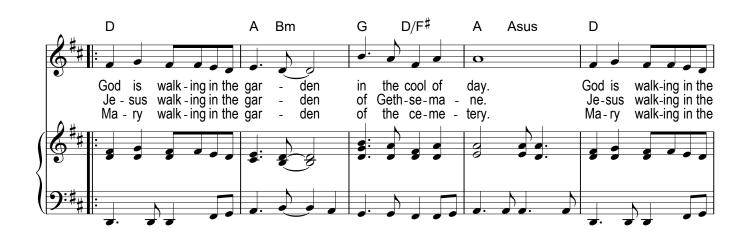


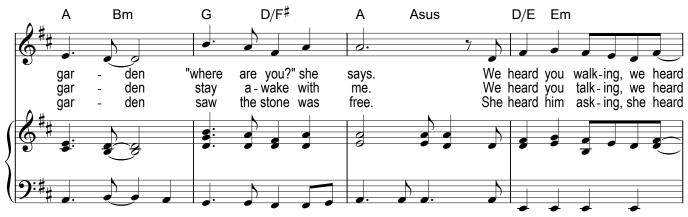


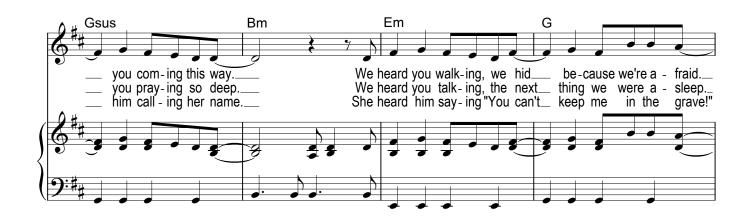
God Is Walking In The Garden

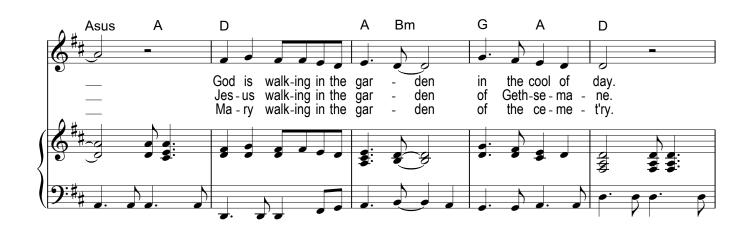


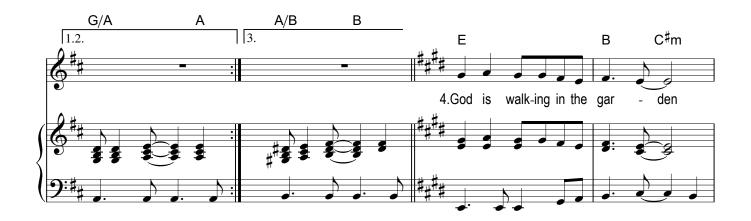








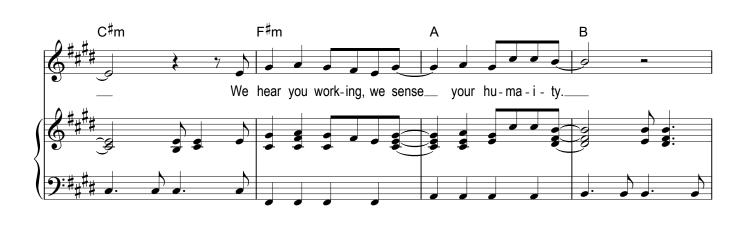


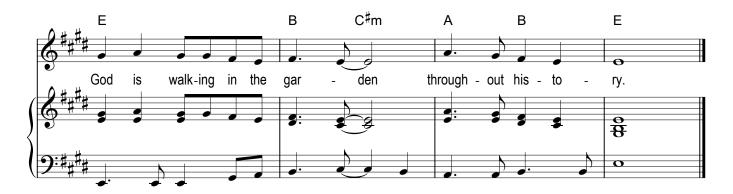












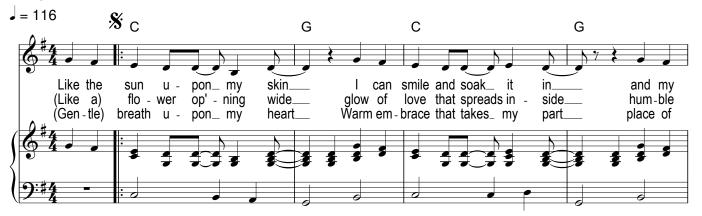
The God That I Know

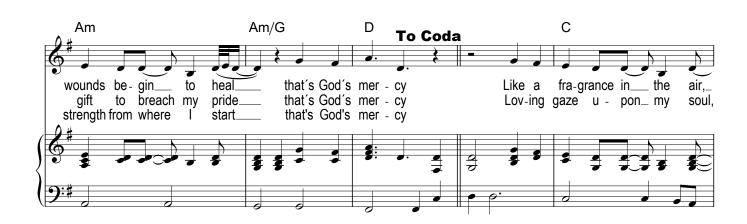


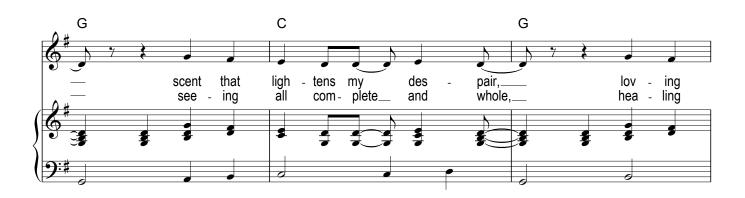
God's Mercy

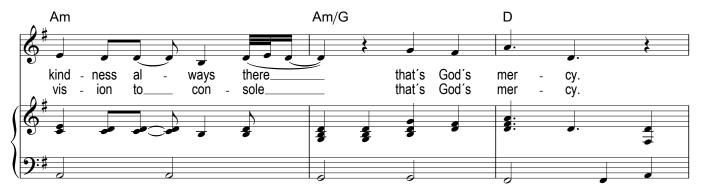
Words & Music: Sheree Anderson Arranged: C Lees & D Brown

Sung With Tentative Confidence

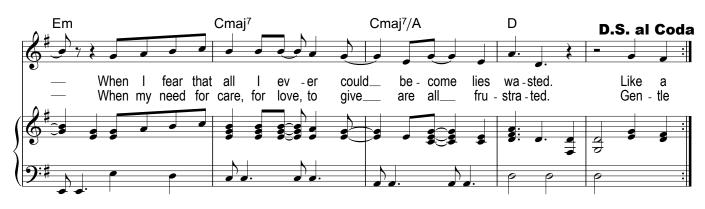


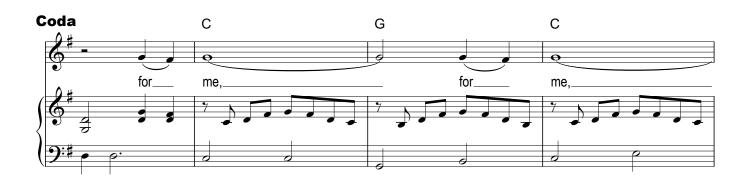


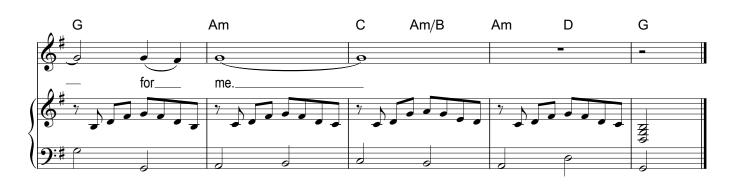












A Grain Of Wheat

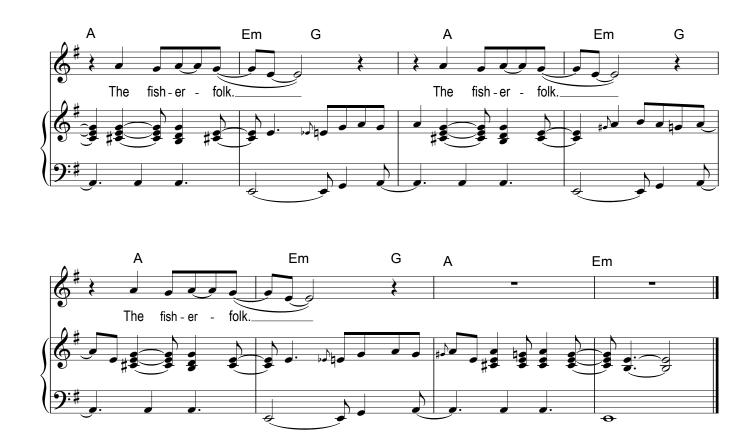




Hail The Fisherfolk

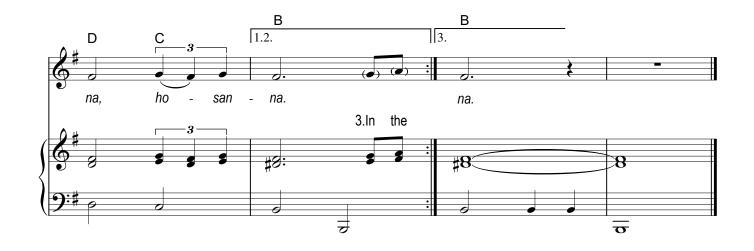


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Hosanna





In The Shape Of A Cross





Invitation



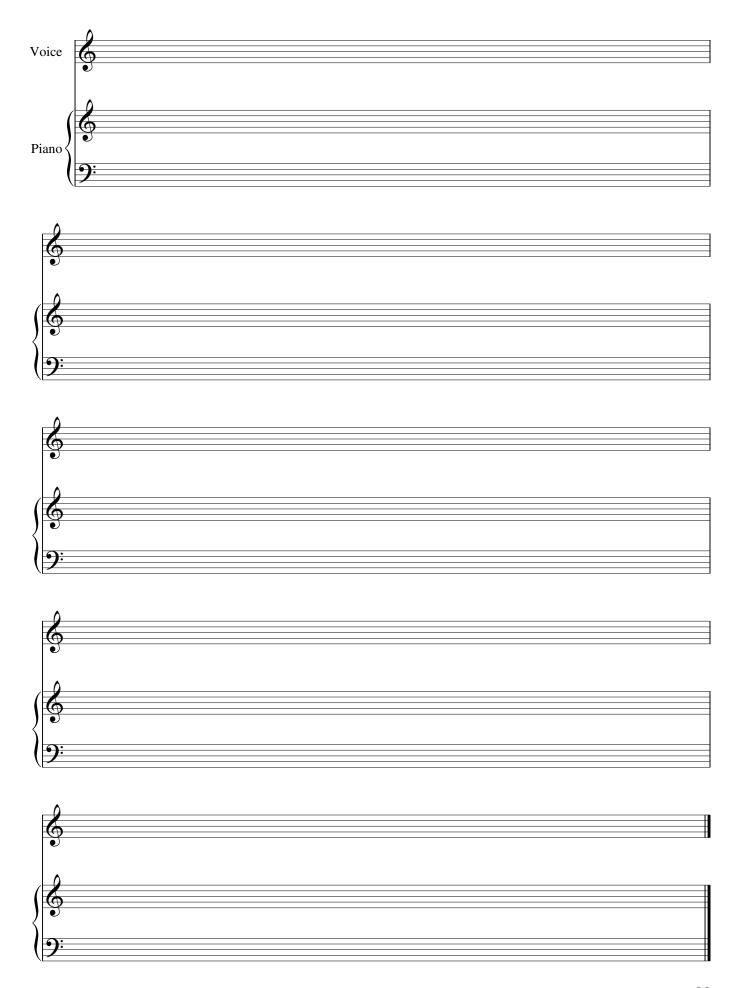


Isaiah 61



write your own song

Title:



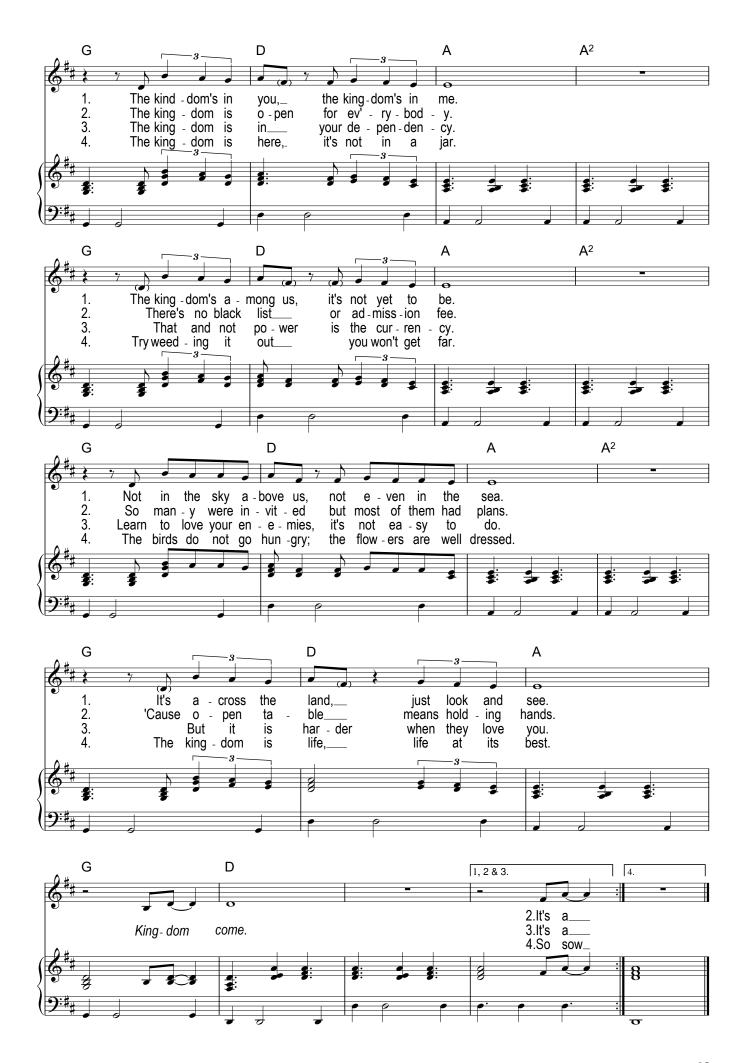
Jesus Is Waiting



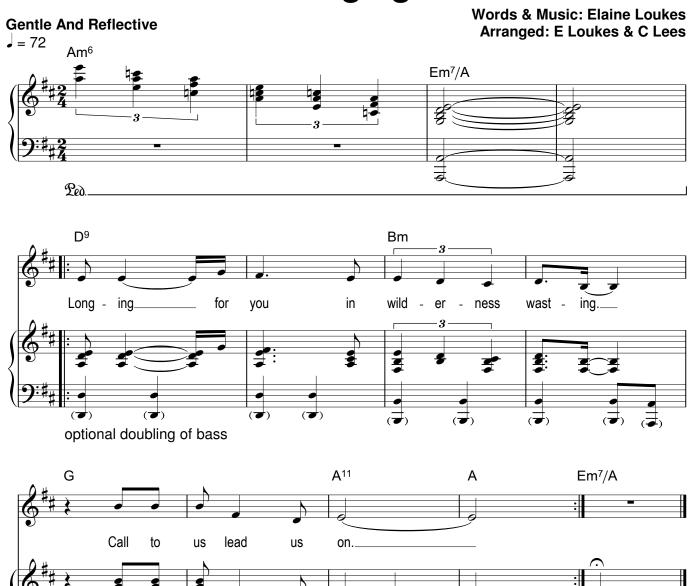


Kingdom Come





Longing



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Title:	write your own lyrics
	45

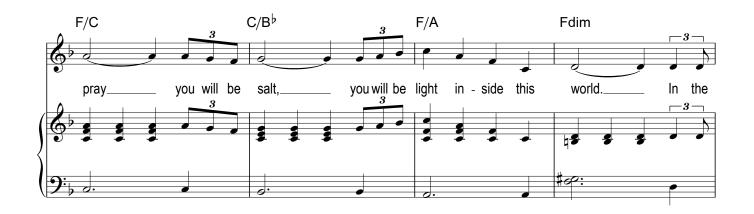
Making Things New

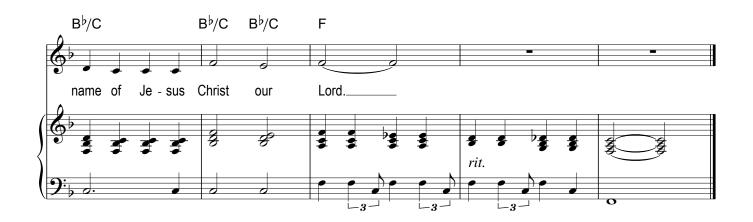




May You Go Well

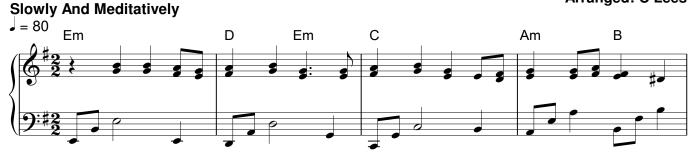




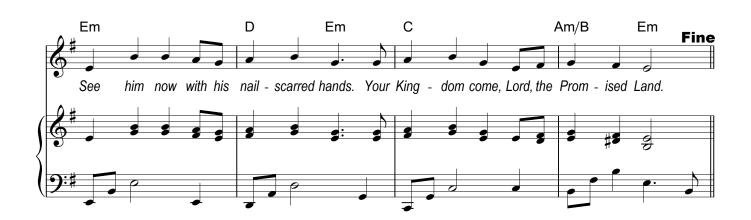


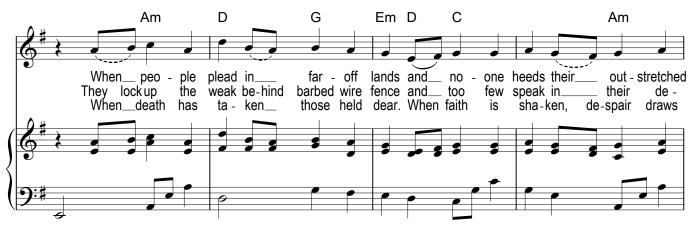
Our God Who Weeps

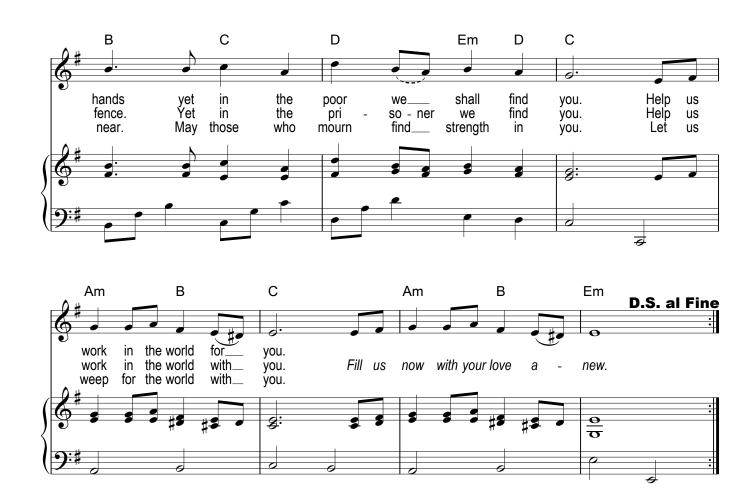
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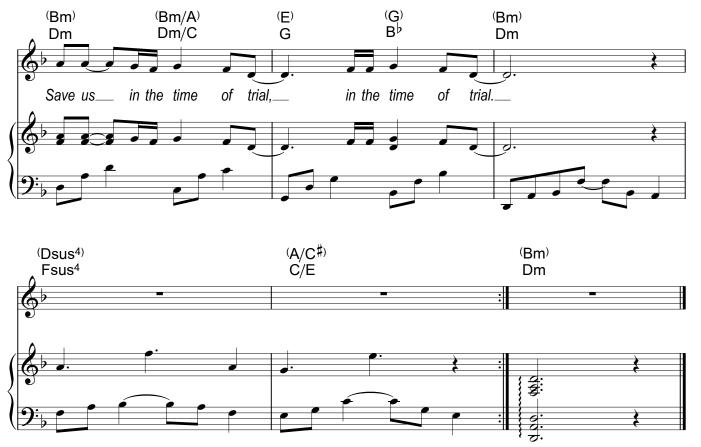
Peace In Our Time





Save Us In The Time Of Trial





Shepherd Of The Night





Tune In!

Words & Music: Natalie Sims Arranged: S Whelan & C Lees



A CD recording of Tune In!
is available through the
Brunswick Uniting Church and
Wholenote Publishing.

For enquiries or to place an order visit: www.brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au www.wholenote.com.au

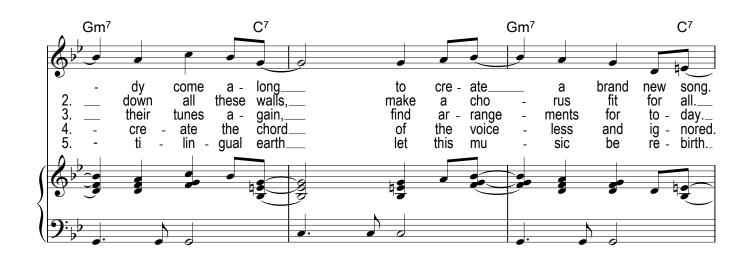
A Vision Strong

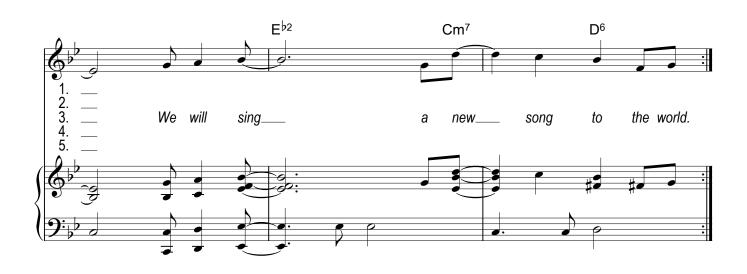


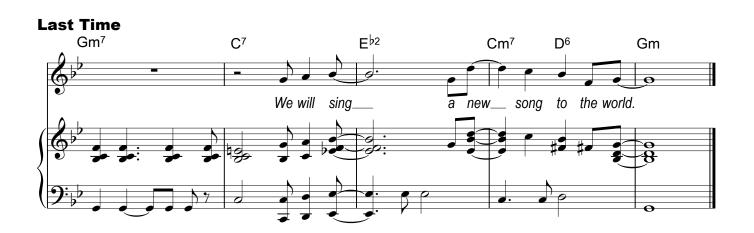


We Will Sing A New Song









Your Abundant Life





Alive In Me

Sheree Anderson © 2006

- Ch Spirit of the Father
 Spirit of our Brother
 Spirit of the Living One
 Alive, in me
 Spirit of the Mother
 Tender-hearted Lover
 Wisdom to discover
 Alive, in me
- Vs 1 You are the Breath that breathes through all The pulse of life and the sacred call Deep seed of Good that grows divine Clear light of Truth that yearns to shine
- Vs 2 You stir a song every soul can sing
 Spread words of love on the angels' wings
 Bring hope to birth at dark of night
 Give us the strength to stand for right
- Vs 3 Quieten our minds so that we may hear The voice of Love that will heal our fears Nurture within, your work begun Transforming power to make us one

I deeply believe the work of transformation, of our becoming a people/person of God, is carried out by God's spirit within. It is the living, breathing essence of God and Christ within us, empowering and challenging us, bringing us into wholeness (or at-one-ment). This song affirms and celebrates that presence.

All Will Finish Well

Dave Brown © 2006

- Vs 1 You in all our worries, you offer peace, you of the ages In this world where injustice reigns, you are in the midst of pain You are the life.
 - We long for your justice, wait for the day all will be mended In this world you're the cry of rage, the silence of the unmarked grave You are the right.
- Ch You're the start, the voice inside the heart Calling us to take the risk of life You've been there, from lonely to despair In our tears for loss and love All will finish well
- Vs 2 You break into history blessing the poor, you of the powerless In this world where the leaders lie, you're the truth that will surprise You are the love

 We downcast and dubious, throw out our nets, already doubting In this world we are lost alone. You're the word that brings us home You are the north
- Ch 2 You're the start, the voice inside the heart Calling us to take the risk of life You're the name that sets us free from shame In our tears for loss and love all will finish well one day

I added these words to a tune I wrote many years ago. I try to express how I see an overwhelmingly large God – personally involved in our world. 'All will finish well' is from Dame or St. Julian of Norwich who wrote '...all shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well.'

Can You See God?

Matthew Lees © 2006

- Vs 1 Can you see God on a clear, starry night sitting down under a tree? Can you see God on a high mountain top looking out across the sea? God's been in creation since very long ago As seasons pass, to all creatures and plants, God brings life and makes them grow
- Vs 2 Can you see God in the heat and the noise of a bustling large city?
 Can you see God in the faces you pass as you walk down a main street?
 God is with the people throughout their busy days
 In ev'ry act showing kindness and love you can see God there always
- Vs 3 Can you see God in a man long ago from a place you've never been?
 Can you see God when he teaches and heals and shares meals with the unclean?
 He scared those in power; they nailed him to a tree
 But he lives on, and his message of love has rung out through history
- Vs 4 Can you see God when you get out of bed, go to church on each Sunday? Can you see God when you're welcomed inside and the people start to pray?
 - Making some time sacred is just the very start Learn to be one with God all through the day 'til you find God in your heart
- Vs 5 Can you see God in a world that's unfair, full of people cold and poor?
 Can you see God in a world where the rich are the ones the best at war?
 God calls us to change it, to set God's people free
 May kingdom come and may God's will be done so the world's how it should be

This song may be used as a song for children following a discussion with them about this very question. This song tries to convey a deeper understanding of God that turns the question in on itself. This song was largely inspired by Marcus J Borg's The God We Never Knew (1997: Harper Collins).

Community

Dave Brown © 2004

- Ch Part of a family, interconnected, this is communityWelcoming strangers, visiting neighbours, this gives us dignity
- Vs 1 Care for the earth and sea, we need to keep them freeSo we care for the earth and sea.Care for the ones we meet, love is the face we seeWhen we care for the ones we meet.
- Ch Part of a family, interconnected, this is communityWelcoming strangers, visiting neighbours, this gives us dignity
- Vs 2 Sharing our joy and pain, praying and keeping faithBy sharing our joy and painSinging a song of rights, imaging God in life, by singing a song of rights.
- Ch 2 Talk to the lonely, bind up the broken, this makes community A glass of water shared with the thirsty, this makes for dignity This makes for dignity This is community

I used to worship at Christ Church Kensington, a joint Anglican and Uniting congregation. Phil, Carol and I used to play music regularly and our Uniting minister, Paul Mayfield, gave us great freedom to create and select music. Paul always emphasised the dignity of small acts, the giving of water to the thirsty, the re-creation in friendship – which is community.

Cover Us With Love

Elaine Loukes © 2006

- Vs 1 When our ears are closed to cries of need
 Selfish ways that crush and hurt and trample
 When minds are set and we don't want to know
 How others stand to lose
 While we look for gain
 Turning our dulled eyes
 From helplessness and pain. Then . . .
- Ch Cover us with love and fill our heart with song
 Change our narrow ways, give us compassion strong
 Be our vision Lord in a world that's filled with greed
 Be our wisdom true, plant in our heart this seed
- Vs 2 When we fail to see what we destroy
 Gath'ring greedily from nature's treasure
 Understanding little why we feel
 The need to take away
 The future of us all
 Hardening our hearts
 To the uniqueness of this place. Then . . .
- Vs 3 When our hearts are cold without Your flame
 Believing we can live without Your spirit
 Convenience when we can ill afford
 To mould You or contain
 Or put you in Your place
 Though foolishly we try
 To limit and restrain. So . . .

The film "The Corporation" (2004) had a deep impact on me, my thinking on consumerism, our treatment of others and our world. At times I despair of our recklessness and selfishness, of how we relate to others and God's world. Imagine the impact if we were fully focused on God, and all our actions and decisions were truly spirit-fuelled.

Dare To Dream

Elaine Loukes © 2006

- Ch Dare to dream of new beginnings
 Paths untried by faith supplied
 Dare to walk and dare to follow
 Bathed in light of Bethl'em's star
 Led by light of Bethl'em's star
- Vs 1 Wake and breathe in scent of promise Shake the binds of dull despair Hear the call to generations "God is alive!" let all prepare
- Vs 2 Travel light, no need for baggage
 Come explore the mystery
 God of prophets strong enduring
 Christ child finite frailty
- Vs 3 Dance the timeless steps of rejoicing Harmonise with angel's choir Celebrate God's constant presence by living infant Christ inspired
- Vs 4 Boldly step into the unseen
 Knowing God will meet us there
 Love unbounded throughout history
 Be the road that we have shared

For me Christmas brings a montage of images and emotions: hope, promise, longing, uncertainty, fulfilment, the conundrum of God's mortality and immortality. In all of this, God is before us, preparing the way. God stretches both forward and backward throughout history. This knowledge reassures me that I can be bold in faith and action and that we can dare to dream.

Father Of Earth, Mother Of Sea

Dave Brown © 2006

- Vs 1 Father of earth, Mother of sea
 Spirit who stands with the victims of greed
 Vision of life, Christ's mystery
 Stand with us Jesus, your children in need
 Stand with us Lord
 Stand with us Lord
- Vs 2 Father of hope, Mother of love
 Spirit who prays with us while war goes on
 Vision of life, knowing your love
 Pray with us Jesus, so help us disarm
 Pray with us Lord
 Pray with us Lord
- Vs 2 Father of day, Mother of night
 Spirit who visits the prisoners, the blind
 Vision of life, prophetic voice
 Visit us Jesus, so help us rejoice
 Visit us Lord
 Visit us Lord

Stand with us Lord Stand with us Lord

At the ecumenical House of the Gentle Bunyip in Clifton Hill, Melbourne, we were involved in the (anti-nuclear) peace movement. Athol Gill's Call to Discipleship on Mark's gospel took us into a strong social and political response – for justice and liberation. This was Christian community and is the vision of life. This song was born there.

Forgive Us Now

Dave Brown © 2005

- Vs 1 Forgive us now, O God of love
 For all the pain that we have sown
 For all the broken hearts we've left
 And all the words we've left unsaid
 Forgive us gracious God of life
- Vs 2 Forgive us now, O mother love
 For all the idols we have built
 For all the time we've worshipped there
 In company of dark despair
 Forgive us mother of all hope
- Ch As we forgive, may we be healed
 As we reach out, may you be near
 And take our hand to comfort bring
 So we can face the start again
- Vs 3 Forgive us now, O holy one
 For crimes committed in your name
 For all the holy wars we wage
 For all the children we enslave
 Forgive us now O holy one
- Vs 4 Forgive us now, O Jesus Christ
 For all the pride before the fall
 For all the times our heart was cold
 For all the monologues we've told
 Forgive us Jesus of new life

This song of repentance started as a very personal song, with 'l' instead of 'we'. However, by verse two it had transformed itself into a collective petition for forgiveness.

It stays with me more than many other songs.

God Is Walking In The Garden

Dave Brown © 1994

- Vs 1 God is walking in the garden in the cool of day
 God is walking in the garden: "Where are you?" she says
 We heard you walking, we heard you coming this way
 We heard you walking, we hid because we're afraid
 God is walking in the garden in the cool of day
- Vs 2 Jesus walking in the garden of Gethsemane
 Jesus walking in the garden: "Stay awake with me"
 We heard you talking, we heard you praying so deep
 We heard you talking, the next thing we were asleep.
 Jesus walking in the garden of Gethsemane
- Vs 3 Mary walking in the garden of the cemetery
 Mary walking in the garden saw the stone was free
 She heard him asking, she heard him calling her name
 She heard him saying "You can't keep me in the grave!"
 Mary walking in the garden of the cemetery
- Vs 4 God is walking in the garden throughout history
 God is walking in the garden of every family
 We hear you walking, we hear you coming to us
 We hear you talking of love in which we can trust
 We hear you laughing, we hear you when we can't see
 We hear you working, we sense your humanity
 God is walking in the garden throughout history

My mother gave me a love of plants and green spaces. Paul Mayfield was an ex-farm boy and one of our ministers at Kensington. He used to bring buckets of worms to church and would wax lyrical about the power of the earth. I realised that the garden is deeply embedded in biblical stories. And that God still walks there.

The God That I Know

Sheree Anderson © 2004

- Vs 1 He comes with his arms open wide
 A sheltering place I can hide
 And my deepest fears, questions and tears
 I can face with his strength as my guide
- Vs 2 She comes with a smile on her face
 Loving kindness my wrongs to erase
 My company she keeps, for the pleasure it reaps
 My life she will renew with her grace
- Vs 3 Both father and mother to me
 More loving than parents can be
 The God that I know, is a stranger no more
 But the place where I find myself free
- Vs 4 I walk this earth on my own
 Carrying a promise I'm not alone
 Gift that is mine, for all of my time
 Love that lets me know that I am home
 Love that lets me know that I am home

The first three verses of this song aim to express discovery of a God beyond the limits of my personal experience of mother/father/home. It was the discovery that our true home, the wideness of God's love, is freedom. The fourth verse was added to express that whenever I am in touch with this love I find the home in myself.

God's Mercy

Sheree Anderson © 2005

- Vs 1 Like the sun upon my skin I can smile and soak it in and my wounds begin to heal That's God's mercy
- Vs 2 Like a fragrance in the air
 Scent that lightens my despair
 Loving kindness always there
 That's God's mercy
- Ch When I'm feeling lost from all that's good When I'm failing all the good I would When I fear that all I ever could become lies wasted When I can't reach out, accept, forgive When it's hard to change the way I live When my need for care, for love, to give, are all frustrated
- Vs 3 Like a flower opening wide
 Glow of love that spreads inside
 Humble gift to breach my pride
 That's God's mercy
- Vs 4 Loving gaze upon my soul
 Seeing all complete and whole
 Healing vision to console
 That's God's mercy
- Vs 5 Gentle breath upon my heart
 Warm embrace that takes my part
 Place of strength from where I start
 That's God's mercy
 For me

 This song a

This song arose out of those times when, full of condemnation for myself, I sit in prayer only to find that God reaches out to me in love and understanding. It never fails to surprise me and break my heart open to the healing touch of forgiveness.

A Grain Of Wheat

Sheree Anderson © 2006

- Vs 1 He left his home, fam'ly, friends, a livelihood undone
 He listened to a call within and took a path that none
 Had taken before him
 He said life was different to what we had known
 He took the message of God's love and he really brought it home
- Ch Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground
 Unless a grain of wheat dies to the world around
 Its shell will not be broken or its heart reach for the sun
 Roots won't grow deep into the earth
 The seed will never become
 All that it is (Hmm)
 All that it is (Hmm)
 All that it is
- Vs 2 He spoke as if God's living touch was right within his heart His hands reached out to heal with love and this was just the start Of a new world revival He said we'd do greater that what he had done He let the Spirit's power unfold and he grew into God's son
- Vs 3 He scared us with a love so bold we nailed him to a tree
 And as he let his body break it was clear to see
 God flowing through him
 He said this could happen for all who believed
 A life empowered by truth and love is waiting as a seed

I wrote this song out of a firm conviction that God lives through us from the inside out. I felt that we need to let our outer physical shell of life be broken through by God's Spirit. This is how I see Jesus. The Spirit is love and when let loose from within shapes us as true children of God.

Hail The Fisherfolk

Dave Brown © 2006

- Vs 1 Hail the fishermen long ago who took their chances on the road Bet their futures not lived yet and cast aside their fishing nets

 The fishermen
- Vs 2 Hail the women of Galilee, who stood beside a brooding sea Watched it all and cried the end and were the first to start again Hail the women
- Vs 3 Hail the slaves and the broken ones who turned their hearts to the kingdom come
 Wove their drama into song and leapt for joy when he came along The broken ones
- Vs 4 Hail the ones who left us young, when their life had just begun Pure as innocence can be and we bless their memory All hail the young
- Vs 5 Hail the saints and martyrs here, in lands and lifetimes through the years Prayer and action, joy and tears who left a trail to walk through fear The martyrs here
- Vs 6 Hail the old and hail the wise, who know the myst'ry of our lives Watch the sunset, touch the rain and lose their life to be regained All hail the aged
- Vs 7 Hail the fisherfolk of today, who hear the call and live the way Beside God to make a stand for truth and mercy in this land The fisherfolk

 The fisherfolk

 The fisherfolk

Mark 1:18 has the famous call of the fishermen. I wanted to use a simple jazz-blues progression that could capture the different ways Jesus calls all of us. Like the call, the song can be unexpected and go on and on.

Hosanna Dave Brown © 2004

Vs 1 In the company of one who stood before the fire
Singing hosanna, hosanna
Swearing at the world and the maid who asked him why
Singing hosanna, hosanna
Hosanna, hosanna

- Vs 2 Promising for life his rugged face he pledged
 Singing hosanna, hosanna
 At the crowing in the night his heart was caught in hell
 Singing hosanna, hosanna
 Hosanna, hosanna
- Vs 3 In the company of one who stood upon the beach Singing hosanna, hosanna
 Diving in the waves forgiven at his feet Singing hosanna, hosanna.
 Hosanna, hosanna.

I was working on a farm in Dorchester, England in 1985 and it was Easter Sunday. Originally there was a bridge: 'rivers of the centuries from the eyes of ones who fail, and everyone has tasted salt like him, weeping bitter tears for the ones that we betray'. I think it's about the bitterness of betrayal.

In The Shape Of A Cross

Dave Brown © 2006

- Ch O Spirit God to you we pray
 For the healing of the nations
 Within this space extend your grace
 For the healing of our neighbours
- Vs 1 Love, enter our shattered world of tears
 Soothing the pain of all our loss
 Breaking the locks on all our fears
 Forging the truth inside our years
 In the shape of a cross
- Vs 2 Love, enter our marvellous refrain Silently saving what was lost Lighting the spark of hope and faith Bring your forgiveness to our day In the shape of a cross
- Vs 3 Love, enter our lives at darkest hour Be with us as we count the cost Wanting to follow where you lead Painting the picture of your power In the shape of a cross In the shape of a cross In the shape of a cross

There was illness in my family and this song arose from my prayer and questioning of God. I returned to Jesus, the crucified God, suffering with us in the world. In a world where horror is never far away, this seems the only way for me to understand a living God, working in an imperfect and at times evil world.

Invitation Shawn Whelan © 2006

Vs 1 God has laid a feasting table
All her guests are gathered 'round
From the highways and the byways
All the lost have now been found

When we hear the invitation
Will we lay our burdens down? (repeat)

Vs 2 At this table all are welcome
No-one need be left behind
God is greater than our difference
Christ can see where we are blind

When we hear the invitation Will we love all humankind? (repeat)

Vs 3 God is crying out for justice
Christ is weeping in the street
When will be the time for laughter?
When will all have food to eat?

When we hear the invitation
Will we make God's will complete? (repeat)

There are many sources for this song, which connects themes of Holy Communion and the Great Banquet with God's call for us to radical discipleship. Among other Biblical images, the song alludes to Wisdom, who is described as being "with" God at creation (cf. John 1) and who invites us to "her" table, and of course to Jesus' banquet parables.

Isaiah 61

(The Spirit Of The Lord)

Isaiah, Chapter 61 Adapted By: Elaine Loukes © 2005

The Spirit of the Lord
Is now upon me
To heal the broken heart
And set the captive free
To open prison doors
And make the blind to see
The Spirit of the Lord
Is now on me

Even when I feel helpless or hopeless, this passage from Isaiah continually reminds me that God's spirit renews, heals, restores.

Through God's Spirit, we are new creations.

Jesus Is Waiting

Dave Brown © 2006

Vs 1 We are the dream that's longing always to be free
We are the story not complete
We look for healing from paralysis of fear
We are the ones who know defeat
We are the ones who know defeat

But Jesus is waiting, Jesus is listening Jesus is present, Jesus creating

Vs 2 We are the lame who look for ways to walk anew
We are the blind who cannot see
We are the friends who watch the sick from on the roof
We want to interrupt the scene
We want to interrupt the scene

While Jesus is working, Jesus is healing Jesus forgiving, Jesus is leading

Vs 3 Come be our liberator, bless and make us free Come be the light upon the shore Come be the freedom for the prison of our time Come now and open up the door Come now and open up the door

And Jesus is knocking, Jesus is saving Jesus is working, Jesus is waiting Jesus is knocking, Jesus is waiting Jesus is healing, Jesus creating

Lots of the pictures here came from Ray Gormann who preached on the story of the paralytic man and his mates. The incompleteness, fear and defeat which can be our paralysis. Jesus as the revolutionary liberator, creating new things. And knocking on closed doors.

Kingdom Come

Matthew Lees © 2006

Vs 1 Come and see a place you can go to
It's a place that's old and new
You might want to think twice
Yeah, it's no paradise
But this community's where God reigns

The kingdom's in you, the kingdom's in me
The kingdom's among us, it's not yet to be
Not in the sky above us, not even in the sea
It's across the land, just look and see
Kingdom come

Vs 2 It's a place for helpless children
Tax collectors, destitutes
For those who're never named
But still are always blamed
The hungry, meek and those in mourning

The kingdom is open for everybody
There's no black list or admission fee
So many were invited, but most of them had plans
'Cause open table means holding hands
Kingdom come

Vs 3 It's a place where you are injured
Stranded, lying by the way
The proud ignore your cries
But one who you despise
Becomes the one to come to your rescue

Continued on Next Page

The kingdom is in your dependency
That, and not power, is the currency
Learn to love your enemies, it's not easy to do
But it's harder when they love you
Kingdom come

Vs 4 So sow trust just like some seed all 'round Get back much more from some ground The more that you invest Will make returns the best When forced to carry one mile, go two

The kingdom is here, it's not in a jar

Try weeding it out – you won't get far

The birds do not go hungry; the flowers are well dressed

The kingdom is life, life at its best

Kingdom come

This song was largely inspired by John Dominic Crossan's The Historical Jesus (1991: Harper Collins). Crossan's analysis reveals the centrality of the concept of the kingdom of God in Jesus' teaching.

Longing

Elaine Loukes © 2006

Longing for you In wilderness wasting Call to us lead us on

In the sixteen years since I have become a mother I have often felt overwhelmed by the demands of our family's busy schedule. I have also struggled to maintain the focused prayer times from my single days. However, even when I feel in a spiritual desert I long to hear God's voice, calling and leading me into places of renewal.

Making Things New

Sheree Anderson © 1996

- Vs 1 The desert will spring to life
 A path will be made in the wild
 Even now as you look I am making things new
- Vs 2 The lion shall lie with the lamb

 The day shall extinguish the night

 Even now as you sleep I am making things new
- Ch Take hold of the hope that I give Trust in me Reach out for the love you can live Eternally
- Vs 3 The river of life shall flow down

 The mountains shall break forth in joy

 Even now as you speak I am making things new
- Vs 4 The barren give birth, the lame walk

 The deaf and the blind hear and see

 Even now as you pray I am making things new

This song came as a reminder that God is always forging a path ahead of us, creating new possibilities out of apparent chaos. God does paradoxical things we can't fathom, but is always working for us. Feel free to substitute other words that are meaningful to you to express God at work in your daily life (eg. sing, dress, run...).

May You Go Well

Dave Brown © 2006

May you go well into paths still unknown
May you know peace even when pain and loss abound
Blessed be you on the road through your life
When you're surprised may you be bold, creative and wise
And we pray you will be salt
You will be light inside this world
In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord

This is a blessing for those who move on from our temporary and ever-changing community.

Our God Who Weeps

Kate Scull © 2006

- Ch See our God with the tear-streaked face
 With words that heal
 And arms that embrace
 See him now with his nail-scarred hands
 Your Kingdom come, Lord, the Promised Land
- Vs 1 When people plead in far-off lands
 And no-one heeds their out-stretched hands
 Yet in the poor we shall find you
 Help us work in the world for you
 Fill us now with your love anew
- Vs 2 They lock up the weak behind barbed-wire fence
 And too few speak in their defence
 Yet in the prisoner we find you
 Help us work in the world with you
 Fill us now with your love anew
- Vs 3 When death has taken those held dear When faith is shaken, despair draws near May those who mourn find strength in you Let us weep for the world with you Fill us now with your love anew

How does God respond to suffering? In his book Reaching for the Invisible God, Philip Yancey writes, 'Jesus gives God a face, and that face is streaked with tears'. The image resonated with my own experience that when it hurts, God is with us and cares. My song grew from there.

Peace In Our Time

Dave Brown © 2006

- Vs 1 Light transcendent, shine into our hearts today
 Fan the breeze of compassion
 Guide our sacrificial action
 Living God, stand beside us on the way
 Take the lives that we offer, show us peace in our days
- Vs 2 Love transcendent, source of life and of our song
 Spark the flames of your justice
 Be our righteous indignation
 Living One, always with us on the road
 Take the lives that we offer, show us peace at the close
- Vs 3 Joy transcendent, Lord of history and now
 Open eyes that are blinded
 Teach us Christ to be disciples
 Living God, walk beside us on the climb
 Take the lives that we offer, show us peace in our time
 Take the lives that we offer, show us peace in our time

I love bossa nova and I see no reason why we can't use a variety of musical forms to sing faith. This is probably a transfigurative bossa peace song.

Save Us In The Time Of Trial

Shawn Whelan © 2008

- Vs 1 You are the source of creation
 Yet you were born as a child
 And in your flesh felt the longings we feel
- Ch Save us in the time of trial

 Save us in the time of trial, in the time of trial
- Vs 2 For forty days in the desert

 No food or water the while

 You met the tempter and showed us the way
- Vs 3 When we are caught in our cravings When we are trapped in desire you show us how to hold onto what's real
- Vs 4 When we are seated with plenty
 And when we live in denial
 When we forget to return to your word

I wrote this song for a Community Arts Project at Brunswick UC, reflecting on the Lenten theme of "Temptation." The reflective feel of the song is inspired by the sung prayers of Taizé. In that spirit, feel free to omit verses, add verses, or play some instrumental verses to encourage individual reflection and prayer.

Shepherd Of The Night

Elaine Loukes © 2006

- Vs 1 Have you ever felt the velvet night wrap you in her warmth? Have you known the soothing darkness lull you into calm? Have you shared the night stars' company burning friendly light? In the dim light God is present Shepherd of the night
- Vs 2 Have you felt strong arms embrace you when you were alone? Has a sense of peace grown in you 'til it overflows? Have your tears brought with them healing like a gentle rain? In the moments of our solitude God is doctor for our pain
- Br Just like a gentle breeze you come, spirit God our constant friend Just like a song you fill our hearts
 Just as a flame you light the way lamp of life our brightest friend Just like a guide you bring us home
 Hold me close like a mother with her young
 Wrap me 'round with your embracing love

In the dim light God is present Shepherd of the night

Living overseas in South Korea, there were times when I felt so incredibly lonely and longed to be with family and friends. Repeatedly during quiet prayer, I felt God's presence reassuring me that I was, in fact, not alone but surrounded by God's love and embrace.

Tune In!

Natalie Sims
© 2006

Tune in, tune in, there's a message coming in
Tune in and see the signs of God's love
Don't let static drown it out, or fill your head with fears and doubts
Tune in so you can hear God's call

Tune In! Actions

Tune in, tune in (turn fingers like tuning in a radio)

There's a message coming in (index finger drawing a line from sky to ear)

Tune in (turn fingers like tuning in a radio)

And see the signs of God's love (shade eyes like you're looking)

Don't let static drown it out (wag your finger like someone's in trouble)

Or fill your head with fear and doubt (grab your head and shake it side to side)

Tune In (turn fingers like tuning in a radio)

So you can hear God's call (cup your hand around you ear)

This was written for a children's talk about ways that God talks to us and how sometimes God is hard to hear with all of the other things that surround us. It would fit particularly well with any of those great stories of God calling people through rainbows, dreams, angels or quiet voices, or when Jesus calls the disciples.

A Vision Strong

Shawn Whelan © 1993

- Vs 1 The people will perish without a vision strong
 And the victims of oppression call to us to sing their song
 We can sing it together if we're standing side by side
 Sharing joys and sorrows like the flowing of the tide
 The people will perish without a vision strong
- Vs 2 The people will perish without a vision strong
 And the plunder of the earth cannot go on for very long
 Development means more than building towers to the sky
 And living well means more than just deciding what to buy
 The people will perish without a vision strong
- Vs 3 The people will perish without a vision strong
 So when women take the lead, you know, the men must tag along
 Cause women want equality and power in their own lives
 And men must stop and listen if the earth is to survive
 The people will perish without a vision strong
- Vs 4 The people will perish without a vision strong
 Work to build up what is right and tear down what is wrong
 The young must see their visions and the old must dream their dreams
 Of a time when justice rolls down as an ever-flowing stream
 The people will perish without a vision strong
 The people will perish without a vision strong

This song was inspired by the stories shared by Christian students and youth from Asia, at an ecumenical conference I attended in Bangalore (India) in 1993. It has since been recorded and sung at other World Student Christian Federation gatherings; it seems that in most countries in our region the issues are just as real now as they were then.

We Will Sing A New Song

Dave Brown © 2006

- Vs 1 Now's the time and now's the day we can sing our life again Everybody come along to create a brand new song We will sing a new song to the world
- Vs 2 We've grown tired of the refrain. Calls for vengeance mark our day We will sing down all these walls, make a chorus fit for all We will sing a new song to the world
- Vs 3 All the saints from history sang a faith that set them free We will play their tunes again, find arrangements for today We will sing a new song to the world
- Vs 4 We will welcome all the poor and their notes that are not scored We will recreate the chord of the voiceless and ignored We will sing a new song to the world
- Vs 5 We will play in all the keys and the rhythms God receives In this multilingual earth let this music be rebirth We will sing a new song to the world

I enjoy exploring different chords and repetitions that allow for other instruments to improvise. Just like the new wine in new wineskins, the song of Jesus' followers can always be something new.

Your Abundant Life

Dave Brown © 2006

- Vs 1 Come our God and visit us sick we pray
 Lend us hope when hopeless seems the way
 Low down young and old, end the pain we hold
- Ch Come to us when we're lostLead us into your abundant life, your abundant life
- Vs 2 Come then Jesus servant of the world Lend us joy when joyless is our serve Heal our broken wings; soothe our suffering
- Vs 3 Come now Spirit, enter in our doubt Flattened hearts that cannot raise a shout Teach us how to be, in this modernity
- Vs 4 Come great liberator to our land
 Sing the sacred dreaming of the sands
 In the desert place, show to us your grace

Your abundant life Your abundant life

At Brunswick, it was Ray Gormann who talked about being Christian in our modernity with its over-abundance. We are often replete and satiated, yet John has Jesus talking about an abundant life which seems the opposite of this catalogue of consumerism. The song is an extended prayer.

Scripture References

Ordered by Book

Old Testament	
Genesis 2:15-17 Save Us In The Time Of Trial	Proverbs 8, 9:1 6Invitation
Genesis 2:15, 3:8-9 God Is Walking In The Garden	Proverbs 29:18A Vision Strong
Genesis 3:1-7 Save Us In The Time Of Trial	Isaiah 42:10 We Will Sing A New Song
Exodus 3:7-10Our God Who Weeps	Isaiah 43:18-19Making Things New
1 Samuel 3Tune In!	Isaiah 55:10-13Making Things New
Psalm 23Longing	Isaiah 61 Isaiah 61
Psalm 40God's Mercy	Joel 2:28A Vision Strong
Psalm 96:1, 98:1 We Will Sing A New Song	Amos 5:24A Vision Strong
New Testament	
Matthew 1:20Tune In!	Luke 19:1-10Invitation
Matthew 4:1-11 Save Us In The Time Of Trial	Luke 19:11-27Kingdom Come
Matthew 5:1-12, 38-48 Kingdom Come	John 11:35Our God Who Weeps
Matthew 6:25-34 Kingdom Come	John 12:24 A Grain Of Wheat
Matthew 10:40Community	John 18:1God Is Walking In The Garden
Matthew 11:25-30Invitation	John 19:41God Is Walking In The Garden
Matthew 13:1-9, 24-30 Kingdom Come	John 10:10Your Abundant Life
Matthew 17:1-9 Peace In Our time	John 20:15God Is Walking In The Garden
Matthew 18:1-4 Kingdom Come	John 20:19Peace In Our Time
Matthew 19:13-15 Kingdom Come	John 21:7Hosanna
Matthew 22:1-14 Kingdom Come	Acts 18:22-29 Can You See God?
Matthew 25:14-30 Kingdom Come	
Matthew 25:31-46Our God Who Weeps	Romans 8: 14-17, 26-28, 37-39 Alive In Me
Matthew 26:69-75Hosanna	Romans 8:15, 26 Father Of Earth, Mother Of Sea
Mark 1:18 Hail The Fisherfolk	2 Corinthians 4:16Making Things New
Mark 4:1-9 Kingdom Come	2 Corinthians 5:17Making Things New
Mark 5:25-29God's Mercy	Ephesians 2: 13-18Peace In Our Time
Mark 9:41Community	Philippians 2: 6 -11 In the Shape Of A Cross
Mark 10:13-16 Kingdom Come	2 Peter 1:17-18Peace In Our Time
Luke 4:18Father Of Earth, Mother Of Sea	RevelationMaking Things New
Luke 5:17-26 Jesus Is Waiting	
Luke 6:20-36 Kingdom Come	
Luke 7:36-50God's Mercy	
Luke 8:4-8 Kingdom Come	Other
Luke 9:10-17Invitation	Thomas 3:1 Kingdom Come
Luke 10:25-37Kingdom Come	Thomas 9 Kingdom Come
Luke 12:22-29Kingdom Come	Thomas 22:1–4 Kingdom Come
Luke 14:15 -24Invitation	Thomas 36 Kingdom Come
Luke 14:15-24Kingdom Come	Thomas 46 Kingdom Come
Luke 15:11-24God's Mercy	Thomas 54 Kingdom Come
Luke 15:11-32Invitation	Thomas 57 Kingdom Come
Luke 17:11-19God's Mercy	Thomas 64 Kingdom Come
Luke 17:20-21Kingdom Come	Thomas 97 Kingdom Come
Luke 18:15-17Kingdom Come	Thomas 113Kingdom Come

Scripture References

Ordered by Song

Alive in Me	Romans 8:14-17, 26-28, 37-39
Can you see God?	
Community	
Father of Earth, Mother Of Sea	Luke 4:18; Romans 8:15, 8:26
God is Walking In The Garden	
God's Mercy	Psalm 40; Mark 5:25-29; Luke 7:36-50, 15:11-24, 17:11-19
A Grain Of Wheat	
Hail The Fisherfolk	
Hosanna	
In The Shape of A Cross	Philippians 2:6-11
Invitation Proverbs 8	3, 9:1-6; Matthew 11:25-30; Luke 9:10-17, 14:15-24, 15:11-32, 19:1-10
Isaiah 61	lsaiah 61
Jesus Is Waiting	Luke 5:17-26
Kingdom Come Matthew 5:1–12, 38–48, 6:25–34, 13:1–9, 24–30, 18:1–4, 19:13–15, 22:1–14, 25:14–30;	
Mark 4	:1–9, 10:13–16; Luke 6:20–36, 8:4–8, 10:25–37, 12:22–29, 14:15–24,
17:20–21, 1	8:15–17, 19:11–27; Thomas 3:1, 9, 22:1–4; 36, 46, 54, 57, 64, 97, 113
Longing	Psalm 23
Making Things New	Based on many images from Isaiah, especially 43:18-19, 55:10-13,
	with hints of Revelation and a nod to 2 Corinthians 4:16 and 5:17
Our God Who Weeps	Exodus 3:7-10; Matthew 25:31-46; John 11:35
Peace In Our Time	Matthew 17:1-9; John 20:19; Ephesians 2:13-18; 2 Peter 1:17-18
Save Us In The Time Of Trial	
Tune In!	
A Vision Strong	Proverbs 29:18; Joel 2:28; Amos 5:24
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vve vviii Sirig A New Sorig	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,



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