

HRP Queer

Inclusive Hymnal

compiled by: Benjamin Low

www.hrpqueer.org

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A Hymn for Self-Acceptance



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Tune: HANNAH'S DREAM

Meter: 12 11 7 7 11 with refrain Topical: Community, Diversity, Justice, Social Concern Bible Reference: Genesis 1:26, Galatians 3:28

To purchase this hymn in print or PDF form, please visit: https://www.giamusic.com/store/resource/as-we- are-we-are-yours-pdf-du01539

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At the Table, All Are Equal

Tune Name: WILCOX

Meter: 8 7 8 7

Bible Reference: Matthew 18:10–14, Matthew 22:1–14, Matthew 28:16–20, Luke 14:7–14, Luke

15:3-7

Topical: Justice, Sending Forth

To purchase this hymn in print or PDF form, please visit: https://www.giamusic.com/store/resource/at-the-table-all-are-equal-pdf-d1010105

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Blessed Are the Poor



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Blessed Are the Poor Among You

PROMISES 11.11.11.9 with Refrain ("Standing on the Promises")

Blessed are the poor among you, Jesus said.

Blessed are you hungry ones who long for bread.

Blessed are you mournful when your tears abound.

God is turning everything around.

Hear the good news!

God is giving you the kingdom and the laughter.

God will fill you...

And you will know the joy that overflows.

Blessed are you weary who are long oppressed, All because you follow God in faithfulness. Leap for joy, for God will give you life anew. Long ago, the prophets struggled, too! Hear the good news! God is giving you the kingdom and the laughter. God will fill you...

And you will know the joy that overflows.

Woe to all you rich who live with blinders on, Feasting at your tables till the food is gone. Woe to you who laugh and live without a care, Woe! when people praise you everywhere. God has spoken:

You have all received your joy and consolation.

I was hungry...

But did you share what God had given you?

God, your way of working is a great surprise! Help us all to see your world through faithful eyes. Only in your kingdom is our true joy found. By your Spirit, turn our lives around! Yours is good news!

You have offered us the kingdom and the laughter.

Please, God, fill us,

And we will know the joy that overflows.

Biblical References: Luke 6:20-26; Matthew 25:31-46

Tune: Russell Kelso Carter, 1886 ("Standing on the Promises")

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Included in Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship (Geneva Press, 2000) and I Sing to

My Savior: New Hymns from the Stories in the Gospel of Luke (2022).

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Boldly Stand with Jesus



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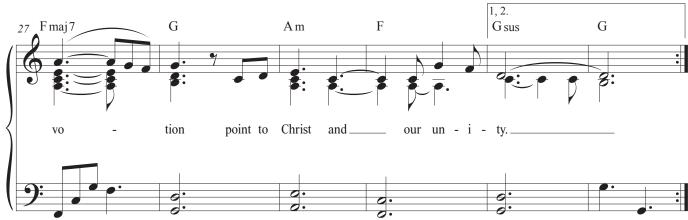
Kim Williams currently resides in Edmond, OK with her husband, Johnny. They have two daughters, the eldest being transgender. Kim enjoys composing hymns, choral anthems, and solo piano music. She has taught piano for 35 years and enjoys sharing her talents in church.

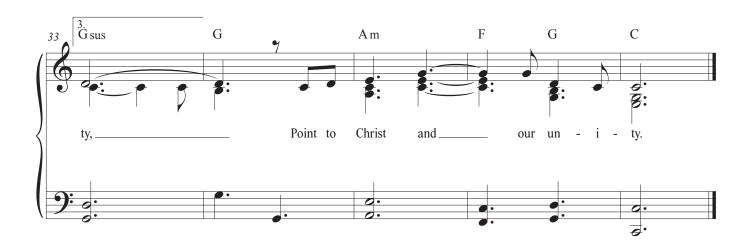
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Boldly Stand with Jesus









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a reprint box, please visit www.onelicense.net. Tune: GROVELAND

Topical: Justice, Social Concern, Gathering Bible Reference: Matthew 25:31–46, Ephesians 2:11–22 To purchase this hymn in print or PDF form, please visit: https://www.giamusic.com/store/resource/build-a-

Meter: 11 11 10 11

longer-table-pdf-du01548

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Creator God, Your Home is Heaven

Tune Name: WAYFARING STRANGER

Meter: 9898D

Bible Reference: Exodus 22:21-22, Deuteronomy 10:12-22, Psalm 68:4-6, Psalm 146:9, Isaiah

1:16–17, Hebrews 13:1–3

Topical: Refuge, Social Concern, Compassion

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Christ, You Often Sat at Dinner

BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7 D ("God Whose Giving Knows No Ending")

Christ, you often sat at dinner with the outcasts and the poor; You reached out to every sinner, sharing bread and wine and more — You proclaimed that God's great table is a joyful, welcome place; No one wears an outcast label or is turned away from grace.

Some who heard your gracious teaching murmured at the things they saw, For your love was more out-reaching than the limits of their law. When they judged the ones you welcomed, when they noted others' sin, You responded, "In God's kingdom, all are gladly welcomed in!"

Lord, you blessed a meal and shared it, giving meanings that were new: "It's my body; take and eat it! It's my blood poured out for you!" Risen Christ, they knew your presence in the breaking of the bread; In that meal was God's abundance: All remembered! All were fed!

Lord, we grieve a church divided where your people can't embrace — Where believers are excluded from the table of your grace. How can there be joy and singing at the table you hold dear When the words are clear and stinging, "No, you are not welcome here!"?

Christ, we know that you are able to bring healing through your cross; Bring together at your table all for whom you paid the cost. Though the feasting in your kingdom may still seem so far away, May we share your meal of welcome as we wait that glorious day.

Biblical References: Luke 13:29, 14:12-24, 15, 22:14-20, 24:30-31; 1 Corinthians 12:12-26; Colossians 1:20

Tune: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; attributed to Benjamin Franklin White; harmony (c) 2017 Christopher Gage ("God Whose Giving Knows No Ending")

Alternate tune: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril Vincent Taylor, 1941, copyright renewed 1970 Hope Publishing Company ("God Is Here!")

Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL, Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1830 (or 1855?) ("Alleluia, Sing to Jesus") Text: Copyright © 2011 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

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Days of Rage and Days of Hope



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Do Not Turn Away the Children

BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7 D ("God Whose Giving Knows No Ending")

Do not turn away the children; let them come to me instead. For to them belongs the kingdom. Make them welcome!" Christ, you said. As we hear your words of blessing that you spoke when they drew near, Can we hear your love addressing needs of children we see here?

Do not turn your back on children who know violence, pain and war. Give them justice, food and welcome, make their homes and lives secure. Don't neglect the world of children who have AIDS and HIV, For to them belongs the kingdom. give them health care that they need.

Do not tell the nation's children, "schools are what we can't afford!" Give them all good education; teach them well, both rich and poor. Do not hurry past the children longing for your love this day; For to them belongs the kingdom; give them time, don't turn away.

Do not miss the faith of children who have questions deep inside, For to them belongs the kingdom wonder with them, be their guide. Jesus, as we hear your blessing for those ones you welcomed in, May our deeds reflect your caring as we welcome them again!

Biblical References: Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 9:33-37; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17

Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844; attributed to Benjamin Franklin White; harmony (c) 2017 Christopher

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Fearfully, Wonderfully Made

Amanda Udis-Kessler



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 $Biblical\ references:\ Psalm\ 139:14$ Text and music © 2019 Amanda Udis-Kessler, All rights reserved.

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For Those Who Suffered

Text and tune: Benjamin Smith To LGBTQ Victims of Violence MEMORIA 1. For those who suf fered lives of sil ent shame, 2. For those who found no peace in ship pews, wor 3. For those who tossed dark and less nights, on rest 4. For those who bear skin, un want ed scars on for those whose plea - sure held their deep est pain: for those who suf - fered word and pow'r ab - used: for those who slum - bered der al ley lights: un for who know but sin: those no for love name off their cheeks, wipe up their tears. Dry Grant them, Lord. Make them your saints and draw them near. Grant them, Lord, Lay them to rest. their bat - tles fought. Grant them. Lord. Lord, bless these wounds, ho - ly scars! Grant them, Lord, O grant them, Lord, nal joy. ter nal joy. ter nal peace. O grant them, Lord, nal peace. ter -O grant them, Lord, nal sleep. nal sleep. e ter -O grant them, Lord, life. ter - nal life. nal ter -

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God, In Our Church's Teaching

AURELIA 7.6.7.6 D ("The Church's One Foundation")

God, in our church's teaching, may we be bold and clear; may it become our practice to counter hate and fear. We've said that Jesus' message is one that's filled with love, and yet our sweeping statements are clearly not enough.

Isaiah boldly told us you hate our worship ways when we ignore injustice and simply offer praise.

And Jesus gave a warning: When we — in sin and pride — refuse to welcome others, we turn our Lord aside.

May these be crucial lessons we teach the old and young: that racist ways are evil, that sexist ways are wrong. In Sunday schools and pulpits, may this be what we speak: God made each person precious, beloved and unique.

O God, we grieve the violence, the shootings, and the hate; we grieve our own indifference — our speaking out too late. God, in our church's witness, may we say loud and clear: We welcome every neighbor. We work for justice here.

Biblical References: Luke 10:25-37; John 13:34-35; Isaiah 58; Matthew 25:31-46; Genesis 1:26-27; 1 John 3:1,

4:7-21; Amos 5:24; Micah 6:8

Tune: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864 ("The Church's One Foundation") Text: Copyright © 2021 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

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This hymn was completed on Saturday, March 20, as a response to the shootings of Asian women and others in Atlanta and the increasing abuse of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

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A <u>music video</u> of this hymn. We are grateful to <u>Rev. Casey Carbone</u> for recording this video.



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Gather at the River

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God of Many Faces

Amy Cerniglia SLANE
Irish Melody, harm. Jack Schrader



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Tune: AZMON

Topical: Fear, Love of God for Us, Unity

Meter: CM

Bible Reference: 1 John 4:16–21

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Tune: DUNLAP'S CREEK Meter: CM

Topical: Creation, Kingdom of God

Bible Reference: Luke 17:20-21, 1 Corinthians 3:16, 1 Corinthians 6:19, 2 Corinthians 6:16

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I Am Not Forgotten

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I Met a Stranger on the Road

Tune Name: THE ROWAN TREE Meter: CMD

Bible Reference: Acts 8:26–40 Topical: Conversion, Unity

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Impartial, Compassionate God of All Lives

Adrienne Stricker ST. DENIO



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In Your Heart, O God, You Hold Us

Tune Name: PLEADING SAVIOR Meter: 8 7 8 7 D Bible Reference: Genesis 1:26–27, Galatians 3:26–29, Ephesians 2:14–22, 1 John 4:19–20

Topical: Diversity, Love of God for Us, Unity, Social Concern

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Let Our Vocation Be Love

Tune Name: BLOOM IN DARKNESS Meter: 7 7 6 5 7 Bible Reference: Matthew 22:37–40, Mark 12:30–31, Luke 10:25–28, 1 Corinthians 13

Topical: Love for Others, Vocation

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O God, In Your Love

ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11 ("Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise")

O God, in your love, you have made us unique: In gifts and traditions, in service we seek, In race and in culture and family design Diverse are the branches in Jesus the Vine.

Lord Jesus, you came to bring God's love on earth; You welcomed the outcasts and showed us our worth. You reached out to people whom others despised You said all are precious in God's loving eyes.

O Christ, with your welcome your church feels unease: We stand at closed doors tightly holding the keys. Yet this is your body, the church that you love O Lord, do you weep for your church from above?

So may your church welcome in loving accord All people who want to serve Jesus our Lord. O Spirit, unite us in Jesus the Son In mission and ministry, God, make us one.

Biblical References: John 15:5; Luke 15; Matthew 7:7-11; 1 Corinthians 12:12-26; John 17:21-22 Tune: Traditional Welsh hymn, in John Robert's *Caniadau y Cyssegr* (*Songs of the Sanctuary*), 1839 ("Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise")

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O God of Creation, We See All Around Us

ASH GROVE 6.6.11.6.6.11 D ("Let All Things Now Living")

O God of creation, we see all around us:
How richly diverse are the people you've made!
In all of our neighbors who daily surround us,
Your love for your children is ever displayed.
We're made in your image, we're equal before you;
Yet often injustice and hatred abound.
Forgive us the ways that we sin and ignore you,
Accepting the structures that push others down.

Christ Jesus, you lived in the same way you taught us; You welcomed the people that others despised. You talked and you ate with the poor and the outcast; You saw every person through welcoming eyes. Forgive our re-building the walls you have broken — Our making of barriers you came to tear down. The gift of your cross is the world's reconciling With God and with all of God's people around.

O God, by your Spirit, now give us a vision
Of life in your kingdom through Jesus your Son —
Where background and culture won't lead to division,
And all will feel welcomed and all will be one.
God, now may we work with a new dedication
For justice, equality, freedom and peace,
Until we are called to your great celebration
And share at your table in your banquet feast.

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Tune: Traditional Welsh melody ("Let All Things Now Living")

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Included in <u>Sing of the World Made New: Hymns of Justice</u>, <u>Peace</u>, <u>and Christian Responsibility</u> (Hope Publishing Company and GIA Publications, 2014).

Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com
New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com/

This hymn was commissioned by Christian Reflection, a journal of The Institute for Faith and Learning at Baylor University, for a special issue on **Racism**.

Queerly Beloved

Amanda Udis-Kessler



Biblical Reference: I John 4:18

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Biblical Reference: I John 4:18

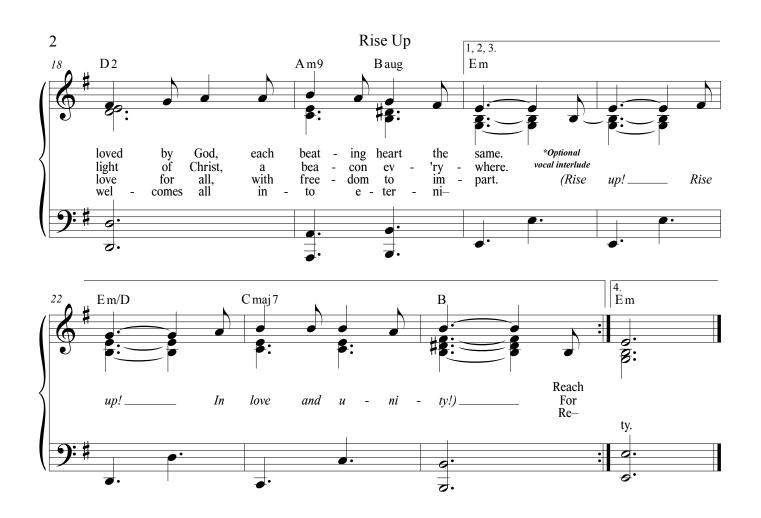
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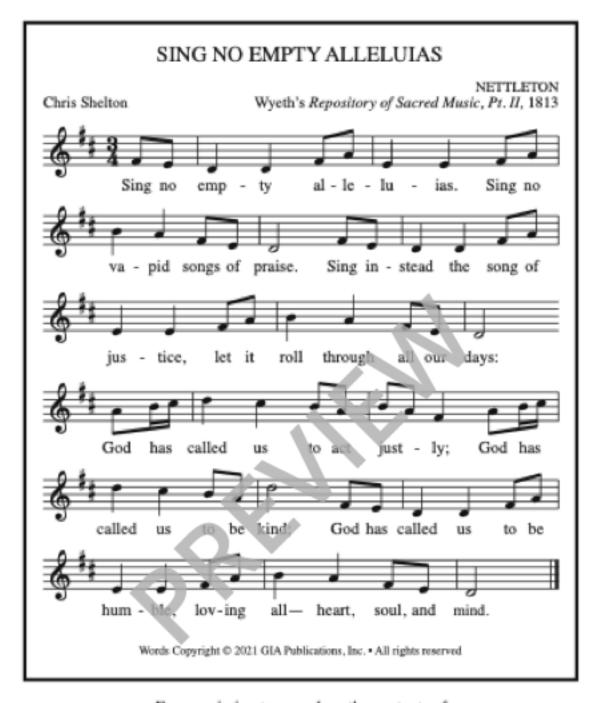
Rise Up





AUTYMN 8.6.8.6 with interlude

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Tune: NETTLETON Meter: 8 7 8 7 D

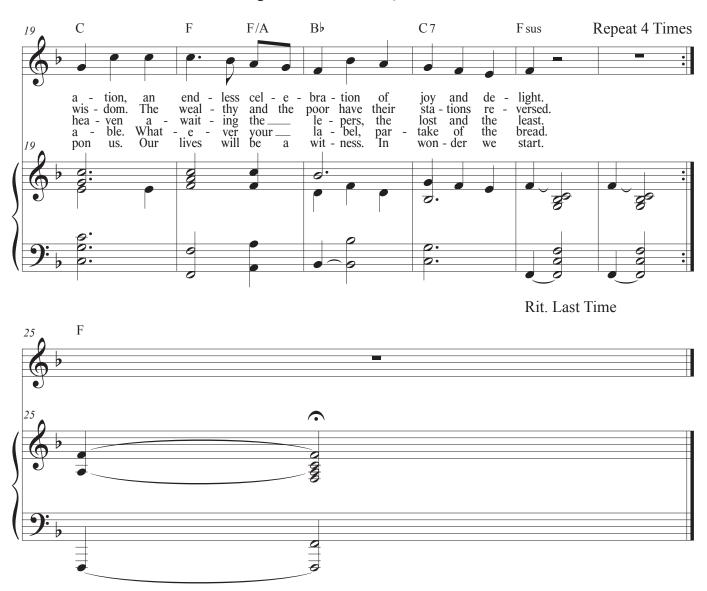
Topical: Humility, Mercy, Justice, Music Bible Reference: Micah 6:8, Amos 5:23–24

To purchase this hymn in print or PDF form, please visit: https://www.giamusic.com/store/resource/sing-no-empty-alleluias-pdf-du01015

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The Kingdom of God is the Queerest of Nations





The Light Comes As A Rainbow



Biblical references: Genesis 9:8-17

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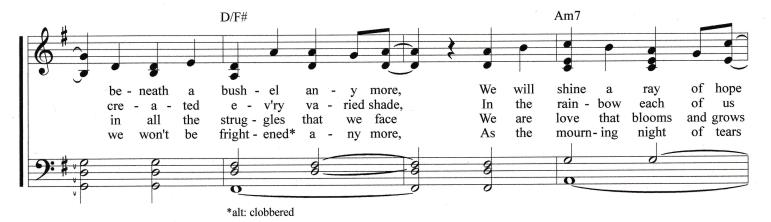
We Are a Rainbow

an Affirming hymn

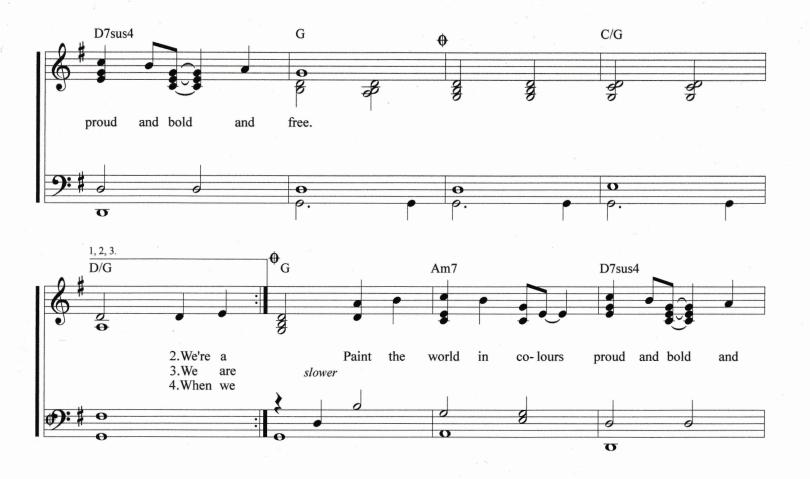
Words & music: David Kai ©2017 (revised 2022)

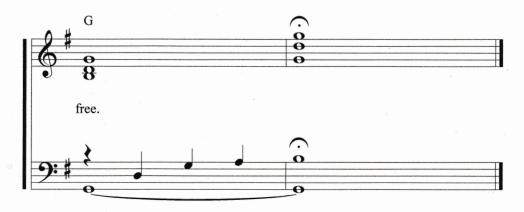
Tune: Slocan











SATB anthem version available from David Kai: davidwkai@gmail.com www.sites.google.com/site/davidwkaismusic

Re. Tune name "Slocan": it is my custom to name my hymn tunes after camps and ghost towns where Canadians of Japanese descent were interned during the Second World War. In this way I hope to ensure that these places and injustices will not be forgotten.

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We Are Setting the Rainbow Table



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We Gather Together

KREMSER 12.11.12.12 ("We Gather Together")

We gather together to ask for God's blessing; For God is the maker of heart and of home. The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing As fear is overcome by the love God has shown.

We thank you, O God, for this joy that we witness — For love and commitment so lasting and strong, For hope that seeks justice and sings of your promise, For faith that speaks the truth till the world sings your song.

We offer our prayers here as two of your children Now honor each other through vows that they share. God, give them a marriage of love, peace and welcome. Give blessing to their home and all homes everywhere.

Tune: Nederlandtsch Gedenckclanck, 1626 ("We Gather Together")

Text: Verse 1: Adrianus Valerius, 1597; translated by Theodore Baker, 1894; revised by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2014. Verses 2-3: Copyright © 2014 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

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Hymn Note for "We Gather Together"

Paul Tellström, pastor of Irvine United Congregational Church in Irvine, CA, and his partner of 29 years, Carl Whidden, Jr., asked Carolyn to write a hymn for their wedding on September 7, 2014. They wanted her to adapt a favorite old hymn, "We Gather Together," for the wedding's processional. Paul wrote, "The struggle that is alluded to fits well with the work our church did to fight Prop 8 and the subsequent flow of weddings we have had here since, including ours."

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When Christ Went to the Temple

LLANGLOFFAN 7.6.7.6 D ("Lead On, O King Eternal"; "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers")

When Christ went to the Temple to worship God one day, He entered through the courtyard where anyone could pray. That court was for the nations — and all could enter in. But Jesus found a market, a shameful robbers' den.

There, cattle, sheep and pigeons were sold for sacrifice, And moneychangers shouted of quality and price. Outsiders could not enter the inner courts for prayer. Their only place to worship was in the courtyard there.

When prayer gave way to profit, and pride closed many doors, The Lord cried out in anger and made a whip of cords. He shooed the sheep and cattle and scattered pigeons, too. God's house was for all people — not for a chosen few.

O God, you love the nations and call us all to pray. Forgive us when our worship turns other folk away. As Christ, in loving protest, fought prejudice and pride, May we who follow Jesus now welcome all inside.

Biblical References: Matthew 21:12-17; Mark 11:15-19; Luke 19:45-48; John 2:13-16

Tune: Traditional Welsh melody, from Daniel Evans' Hymnau a Thonau (Hymns and Tunes), 1865

("Lead On, O King Eternal"; "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers")

Alternate tune: ANGEL'S STORY, Arthur Henry Mann, 1888 ("O Jesus, I Have Promised")

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Included in I Sing to My Savior: New Hymns from the Stories in the Gospel of Luke (2022).

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A hymn for the Third Sunday in Lent

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The **Presbyterian Outlook** magazine commissioned this hymn.

When Did We See You Hungry, Lord?

MARYTON 8.8.8.8 ("O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee")

(Congregation): When did we see you hungry, Lord?

(One voice) "I work two jobs so we can eat...

I search for food we can afford...

I am your neighbor down the street!"

(Congregation): When did we see you thirsty, Lord?

(One voice) "I carry water miles each day...

I long for water, close and pure...

I am your neighbor far away!"

(Congregation): When were you still a stranger, Lord?

(One voice) "I moved to your community...

I wait your hand at your church door...

I am each stranger that you see!"

(Congregation): We see the child whose shoes are worn...

We see the man in hospice care...
We see the prisoner many scorn...

A voice cries out; Will we be there?

Jesus, your presence here is real;

You came a servant on your knees.

May we, your church, now humbly kneel

And serve you in the "least of these."

Biblical Reference: Matthew 25:31-46

Tune: Henry Percy Smith, 1874 ("O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee") (MIDI)

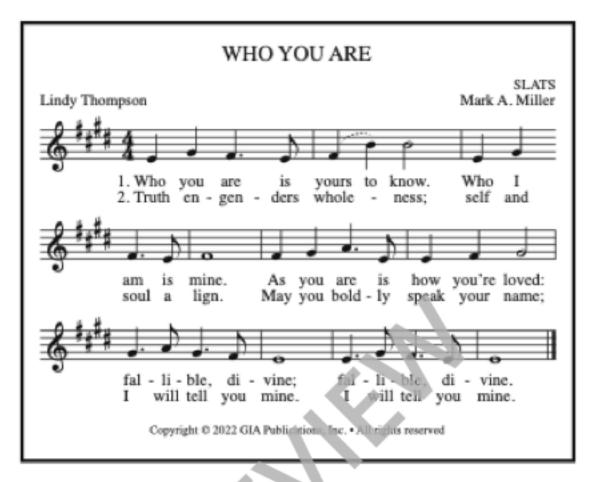
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Worship by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (Geneva Press, 2000) includes a permission note for those who own this book to use this hymn (along with the 44 other new hymns in the book) in their local church's worship services. People who do not own *Gifts of Love* are asked to contact Carolyn (carolynshymns@gmail.com) for permission to use the hymn and to get a copy of the hymn formatted for worship bulletin use.



Biblical references: Matthew 9:10-13; Matthew 11:18-19; Luke 7:36; Luke 14:1 Text and music © 2018 Amanda Udis-Kessler. All rights reserved. Email: amanda@amandaudiskessler.com New hymns: queersacredmusic.com Permission is given for free use of this hymn. Please share it with pastors, musicians, other worship planners and activists for their possible use. Thank you.



Whoever You Are, Your Prayer is Welcome

Tune Name: SLATS Meter: 7 5 7 5 5

Bible Reference: Psalm 139:14, Jeremiah 31:3, Romans 8:35–39, 1 John 4:19

To purchase this hymn in print or PDF form, please visit: https://www.giamusic.com/store/resource/who-you-are-pdf-du01353

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Whoever You Are, Your Prayer is Welcome

Tune Name: OPEN YOUR HEART Meter: 10 11 12 11

Bible Reference: 1 Samuel 1:12-18, Psalms 139:1-4, Isaiah 65:24, 1 Peter 5:7, 1 John 5:14-15

Topical: Diversity, Grace, Prayer

To purchase this hymn in print or PDF form, please visit: https://www.giamusic.com/store/ resource/whoever-you-are-pdf-du01097

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You Are Who You Are

Tune Name: CIARAN Meter: 10 10 10 10 with refrain

Bible Reference: Exodus 3:14, Psalm 113:2, Psalm 139:14

Topical: Love of God for Us, Vocation

To purchase this hymn in print or PDF form, please visit: https://www.giamusic.com/store/

resource/you-are-who-you-are-pdf-du00624

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About the Hymnwriters:

David Bjorlin was born in Duluth, Minnesota, and grew up in neighboring Hermantown until graduating from high school. After completing a one-year certificate at a Bible school outside of Quito, Ecuador, he attended North Park University in Chicago where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in history and secondary education. He went on to complete a Master of Divinity at North Park Theological University in 2011 and earned his PhD in history and hermeneutics (liturgical studies) at Boston University School of Theology in 2018. David currently is a Teaching Fellow in Music and Worship at North Park University and the Pastor of Worship and Creative Arts at Resurrection Covenant Church in Chicago. He has coauthored one book, *Incorporating Children in Worship: Mark of the Kingdom*, and written several journal articles on the history and practice of congregational song. He currently serves on the boards of both The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada and The Liturgical Conference. When not writing or teaching, David enjoys attending concerts, perusing the Art Institute of Chicago, and reading fiction and poetry. He lives in Chicago's North Center neighborhood surrounded by a close community of friends.

Hannah Brown has served as Pastor at West Concord Union Church United Church of Christ in Concord, Massachusetts since 2009. She previously served as a Lily Resident at Mayflower UCC in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Her ministry has been shaped by an interest in worship experiences that are heart-centered, interactive, and accessible to folks of a wide range of ages and abilities. She has a passion for creative and faithful adaptation of church structures and traditions. Hannah's first hymn text was published in November 2022 by GIA Publications on their Unbound digital platform. To see all of my pieces that have been published to date on Unbound, click here (<a href="https://www.giamusic.com/store/search?search-artist=Hannah%20C.%20Brown)). https://hannahcbrown.com/

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette is a gifted hymn writer who has written over 400 hymns. These hymns have been sung by congregations throughout the United States and around the world — from the Washington National Cathedral to St. Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh, Scotland to St. George's Cathedral in Cape Town, South Africa to small town churches and small household congregations; they have also been sung at national church and international ecumenical meetings. In addition to I Sing to My Savior: New Hymns from the Stories in Luke's Gospel, she has written Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship (Geneva Press) and Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor (Upper Room Books). Her hymns have been published in over 20 books. The World Council of Churches, National Council of Churches, Church World Service and Churches Uniting in Christ have asked her to write hymns. Habitat for Humanity International used a hymn by Carolyn for their 30th anniversary celebration. She has been a pastor in rural, small town, suburban, and city churches; she has also served as a hospice chaplain, a hospital chaplain, and a school bus aide helping children with special needs. Carolyn is a graduate of Lebanon Valley College and Princeton Theological Seminary. She finds joy in parish ministry, hymn writing, and most of all in her family as a wife, mother (and foster mother), grandmother, sister, and human parent to a rescue dog, "Annie." Carolyn sees her hymn writing as a partnership and is very grateful for prayers for her hymn writing, suggestions for hymns, gifts for hymn use and commissions, and invitations to speak at conferences, workshops, and church gatherings (in person and online). She hopes her hymns nurture people in their discipleship and support churches in their worship and service in the world. Sing to the Lord a new song!

https://www.carolynshymns.com/

David Kai grew up in Toronto attending the Centennial-Japanese United Church. He is a graduate of the University of Toronto, the Humber College music program where he specialized in arranging and composing, and The Centre for Christian Studies. Commissioned as a diaconal minister in 1987, David served in pastoral charges in Birtle, Manitoba, Orleans and Ajax, Ontario. David has written hymn tunes and arrangements in collaboration with authors and composers such as Ruth Duck, Linnea Good, Pat Mayberry and Brian Wren. He was a member of the committee that produced the Voices United hymn book, and also provided music for the Bible Quest curriculum and the More Voices hymn supplement. He is currently on the committee that is preparing the Then Let Us Sing hymn resource in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the United Church of Canada in 2025. His hymns and arrangements have appeared in hymn books and collections in Canada, China and the USA. As a musician, David has performed with groups and musicians such as Linnea Good, Bruce Harding, the Union United Church Gospel Choir, Terry Watada, and in bands playing styles from calypso and reggae to Christian rock, country and gospel. He has served as a musician at gatherings such as Berwick Camp, International Diakonia, Bay of Quinte Conference, the Ethnic Ministries Council and General Council Youth Forum.

The music of David Kai seeks to promote faith, justice and the inclusion of all God's people. https://sites.google.com/site/davidwkaismusic/

Chris Shelton is the pastor of Broadway Presbyterian Church in New York City. Chris grew up in Fort Worth, Texas, and was greatly influenced by the vibrant musical tradition is his (Baptist) church and by the extraordinary arts educators at Hamilton High School. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in Drama and Music at Texas Women's University. While in college, he was a scholarship choir member at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Denton. In 2000, Chris made the leap from Texas to New York City, earning his Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary in 2003. Chris was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in 2004 and has served Presbyterian Church (USA) communities in New Jersey and New York. Chris' first publication was the chapter on Lighting Design in the Boy Scouts of America Theater Merit Badge guidebook. His hymns have been included in the Mennonite hymnal, *Voices Together*; The Hymn Society collection, *Songs for the Holy Other*; and the worship resource of the Presbyterian Church (Next USA), *Call to Worship*.

Benjamin Smith is an ordained minister in the Alliance of Baptists and most recently served as Associate Pastor of First Baptist Church in Rochester, NY. He now lives in Oregon and works in the nonprofit sector in housing. He enjoys writing music, taking photos, and spending time outdoors.

Rev. Adrienne Stricker (she/her/hers) has served in ministries in Christian Education and administration in the Chicagoland area in The Presbyterian Church (USA), The United Methodist Church, and The United Church of Christ. As an ordained Deacon in the Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church, her call is to ministries of word, service, compassion, and justice. Adrienne graduated from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in 2009 and currently serves First Congregational Church of La Grange, IL and Central United Methodist Church in Skokie, IL. Adrienne is an enrolled member of the Port Gamble S'Klallam tribe of Kingston, Washington, and has been an advocate and leader in Native American ministries for over ten years. She has served on the Northern Illinois Board of Ordained Ministry for the Northern Illinois Annual Conference and as the co-chair of the Northern Illinois Order of Deacons. She is a contributing author to Songs for The Holy Other (The Hymn Society), God of The Bible (General Commission on the Status and Role of Women), Disciplines 2018 (The Upper Room) and Preaching Notes (Discipleship Ministries).

Lindy Thompson is a poet and lyricist whose work seeks to shine fresh light on the sacred truth that all people are beloved children of God. Her poetry has been published by Alive Now, Reconciling Ministries Network, and the General Commission on Religion and Race. She has written lyrics for composer Mark Miller for many choral anthems and congregational songs including "I Choose Love" and "Teach Me to Fly," both published by Choristers Guild. She lives in Franklin, TN with her husband and three children where they are all very active members of Christ UMC. She blogs her poetry at <u>lindythompson.net</u> and posts information and updates on <u>facebook.com/lindythompsonwrites</u>.

Amanda Udis-Kessler is a published and award-winning hymnwriter and progressive sacred music composer, writer, sociologist, and antiracism trainer. Her hymns and worship songs have appeared in multiple hymnals and worship resource collections. Find her music at https://queersacredmusic.com and her writing at https://amandaudiskessler.com. Her book Abundant Lives: A Progressive Christian Ethic of Flourishing will be published by Pilgrim Press in 2024.

Kim Williams currently resides in Edmond, OK with her husband, Johnny. They have two daughters, the eldest being transgender. Kim enjoys composing hymns, choral anthems, and solo piano music. She has taught piano for 35 years and enjoys sharing her talents in church.